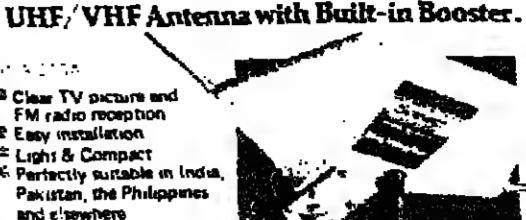


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ARAB TIMES



Amir raps US, Soviets on Jewish influx

JEDDAH, Feb 7. (Agencies): The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) today castigated the United States and the Soviet Union for allowing an influx of Soviet Jews into the Israeli-occupied territories.

HH the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, said Washington and Moscow were guilty of the "most dangerous decision

against the Arab world at the turn of the century." The Amir made the remark in a speech read on his behalf on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the creation of the OIC, of which he is the current chairman.

The 46-member organisation is the umbrella grouping for the world's estimated one billion Muslims.

"At a time that the world's conscience had grown more aware of the Palestinians' rights and while we were looking forward to positive steps to achieve legitimate Palestinian aspirations for a state on their territory, suddenly the curtain lifted to expose the most dangerous decision against the Arab world by agreement of the two superpowers at the turn of the century," the Amir said.

The speech was read by Kuwait's Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Khalid Ahmed Al Jasser.

The Amir, OIC Secretary General Hamid Al Gabid and host Saudi Arabian King Fahd pledged increased Islamic support for the Palestinians until they obtain a state of their own.

"The Jewish influx emanates from the Soviet

Union and flows under the banner of human rights to settle in the land of their choice by dint of the new immigration laws in the United States and Europe," the Amir said.

Restrictions on immigration of Soviet Jews into the US has turned them toward Israel, where leaders expect some 300,000 to settle over the next five years.

"They (the Jews) end up in Palestine ... where the Arab inhabitants have to face a diaspora or be destroyed," the Amir said.

"The makers of the law talk about the right of Jews to emigrate and settle where they wish and do not talk about the right of the Arab people to

(Continued on Page 9)

Crisis ends in unanimity on democracy

Unity and security of Kuwait stressed as Crown Prince meets former deputies

By Ahmed Al Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla met former National Assembly deputies yesterday and optimism spread all over the country after the long-awaited meeting.

35 die in Karachi strike violence

KARACHI, Feb 7. (Reuters): Security forces and anti-government protesters fought gunbattles in Karachi today, killing 35 people and injuring 110.

Police said they arrested about 300 people as a general strike paralysed Pakistan's biggest city. "It was the worst strike in Pakistan's history," a police official said.

Authorities clamped a curfew on large areas of Karachi.

Protesters attacked four police stations trying to free colleagues arrested during the day.

Police said at least 50 shops were looted.

Government officials said the indefinite curfew was imposed on seven police districts covering about a quarter of the port city's eight-million population.

Troops in battle-dress patrolled the city in armoured trucks fitted with machine guns and police fought several battles with guns, teargas, stones and other missiles with the strikers, witnesses said.

Those killed by gunfire or stabbing included a soldier, four policemen, a woman doctor and an 18-year-old child.

Doctors at Karachi's Jinnah and Ahsan hospitals said they had declared an emergency and called in off-duty medical staff to cope with a flood of injured.

"The wounded are lying on floors," a Jinnah hospital doctor said. "We don't have many beds. We have appealed for blood donations."

Urgent pleas for blood were relayed through loudspeakers on mosques.

Troops, paramilitary forces and police fought battles with activists of the powerful Mohajir National Movement (MNM) which called the strike, accusing Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government of repressive policies.

Protesters set fire to bank buildings, vehicles, shops, houses and two offices of Benazir's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), witnesses said.

Dozens of police were posted atop police stations to keep a watch on the attackers, witnesses said.

The strike closed the stock exchange in Karachi, Pakistan's commercial capital, and all shopping centres. There was no loading or unloading at Karachi port and the airport was badly hit by a low turnout of staff. Local train services were suspended.

Weather

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|---|
| TEMPERATURE will be around normal with moderate southeasterly wind and a chance for rain. |
| Sea: Moderate |
| High temp: 9.00 am, 12.00 pm |
| Low temp: 6.00 am, 5.00 pm |
| Sunrise: 6.34 am |
| Sunset: 5.31 pm |
| Maximum temperatures recorded: |
| Kuwait: 18°C 64°F |
| Ahmadi: 17°C 63°F |
| Fulata: 18°C 64°F |
| Minimum temperatures recorded: |
| Kuwait: 8°C 48°F |
| Ahmadi: 12°C 54°F |
| Fulata: 10°C 50°F |
| Maximum temperatures expected: |
| Kuwait: 19°C 66°F |
| Ahmadi: 18°C 64°F |
| Fulata: 18°C 64°F |
| Maximum humidity recorded: |
| Kuwait: 87 per cent |
| Ahmadi: 88 per cent |
| Fulata: 65 per cent |

Clear sweep for Gorbachev Monopoly ends

Communists surrender pole position

MOSCOW, Feb 7. (AP): Communist Party leaders agreed today to relinquish their constitutionally guaranteed monopoly on power and move further toward transforming the Soviet Union into a multiparty democracy, officials said.

The party central committee, which decides communist policies, voted almost unanimously to accept the proposals of President Mikhail Gorbachev despite sharp criticism of his plan during an extended meeting this week, one participant said.

He said the party would talk with any political force that stands for democracy and rejects violence.

The Communist Party will ask the people to approve a presidential system with a cabinet, Politburo member Alexander Yakovlev said today.

The central committee ended the meeting with discussion on the Lithuanian Communist Party's decision in December to break away from the central party. A party source said the central committee recognised a small faction of the Lithuanian party that remained loyal to Moscow as the Baltic republic's true party representative.

(Continued on Page 2)



Taking care

A very old Romanian woman is spoon fed in a Bucharest nursing home. The elderly, especially women, were all but abandoned under the Ceausescu regime prior to the revolution and lost rights to housing and employment at a considerably earlier age than in the West. (Reuter wirephoto)

Two Kashmiris shot dead

Indians, Pakistanis hold rallies

SRINAGAR, Feb 7. (Reuters): Indian troops shot dead two store clerks in troubled Kashmir today after apparently panicking over an accidental gas explosion, the father of one of the victims said.

Police did not confirm the deaths but said five people were injured in the gas blast in the Lal Chowk business district.

Mohammad Yusuf said his son ran outside after a gas cylinder blew up and security men shot him dead. "They apparently panicked at the blast and fired indiscriminately," he said.

The second victim was a shopkeeper in the same building. Doctors at a local hospital said two people with fatal bullet wounds were brought to the hospital morgue.

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

Mr Cajetan Colaso has won the KD100 First Full House prize. Game No. 75 continues for the Second and Third Full House prizes.

Philippines acts against child sex

MANILA, Feb 7. (Reuters): The Philippine Congress is cracking down on child sex and the mail-order-bride business.

A House of Representatives committee endorsed a bill this week that would impose prison terms of 10 to 20 years for adults who have sex with children under 15 years old. Another committee sought to ban newspaper advertisements for mail-order brides.

During the meeting, a note was passed by Dr Ahmad Al Khatib, a former deputy, saying it was time for lunch.

The Crown Prince smiled and asked his office director to order for the lunch. Talks were exchanged at the lunch also.

Ideas, thoughts, suggestions were frankly exchanged, according to well-informed sources.

The sources said that the meeting left a great deal of appreciation and the results of the first ever such meeting were described as very fruitful.

Sources close to the participants said that the former deputies came out of the meeting pleased, repeating what the Crown Prince told them. "This meeting was supposed to be held three months ago and should have followed the same procedure as yesterday's meeting."

The meeting agreed that the Kuwaiti arena is not accustomed to deal except through direct dialogue and open-door policy.

These doors have never been closed for any citizen willing to talk in the affairs of the state or public affairs, but by taking into consideration the interests of

(Continued on Page 9)

Japanese official dies in car crash

TOKYO, Feb 7. (Kuna): Two Japanese nationals, including an official from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, were killed in a car accident while en route from Kuwait to Damman in Saudi Arabia, the Japanese authorities announced yesterday.

The sources, quoting reports from the Japanese embassies in Kuwait and Riyadh, added that director general for economic co-operation Akira Kawa and businessman Makoto Hosokawa were killed in the car accident.

The sources said that another employee at the ministry Jun Kimura was suffering from dangerous injuries.

Surgeons operating in candlelight, fist fights over bread



Aoun to fight till end

BEIRUT, Feb 7. (Agencies): People searched East Beirut hospitals for missing relatives as surgeons operated in candlelight and police reported fist fights over bread, reflecting desperate conditions left by nine days of war between Christians.

French Humanitarian Aid Minister Bernard Kouchner and Ambassador Rene Ala negotiated a 90-minute ceasefire covering only one street of East Beirut used by a convoy of seven ambulances to evacuate 12 seriously wounded people from the Hotel Dieu hospital in the Ashrafieh district.

General Michel Aoun today vowed to fight the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia to the finish unless it renounced an Arab-brokered peace plan for Lebanon.

"If everybody quits I will stay by myself defending my position," Aoun told a news conference in an underground bunker at the presidential palace of Baabda in Lebanon's Christian enclave.

Police said the casualty toll from the savage clashes stood at 365 dead and 1,682 wounded, noting that scores of the injured were dying in hospitals due to scarcity of blood, and antibiotics and other medicines.

"We have reports of 18 wounded victims who passed away at hospitals in East Beirut alone. We do not have updated reports from the rest of the (Christian) enclave," said a police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with regulations.

He said Gen. Michel Aoun was reorganising his forces in

(Continued on Page 2)

DAY BY DAY

THANKS to HH the Crown Prince and Premier. He was simply more than excellent during his meeting with his sons, the sons of Kuwait. Winds could have pulled them a little, but the storms of affection and love for Kuwait will always keep them bonded to their country, their origin and to each good word. You simply gave them the example of an honest, responsible official who fears God while taking any decision relating to his country and its interests. They came out from the meeting smiling, carrying all the love and affection and good intention you showed to them. Certainly it was a necessary meeting to cool the nerves and it was indeed a fruitful one. Kuwait is a small country that has no place for feelings of hatred and the land is for love, brotherhood and good words. Thanks again to the Crown Prince and Premier. It only shows his keen interest for his country.

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Details inside page

INTERNATIONAL

Nepal arrests opposition leaders to prevent democracy drive

KATHMANDU, Feb 7. (UPI): The Nepal government today began arrests of senior leaders of the banned Nepali Congress Party to prevent a movement the party is starting Feb 18 for greater democracy in the Himalayan kingdom, a party spokesman said.

The arrests appear intended to head off an indefinite nation-wide movement by the opposition to lift a 29-year-old ban on

political parties and to decrease the near absolute powers possessed by King Birendra.

Assistant general secretaries of the banned Congress Party Yog Prasad Upadhyay and Basu Risal, and office secretary Dhruba Bhadary, were among 100 people arrested in the last 24 hours, said the Congress party spokesman.

"Our modest estimate is that 100 persons have been arrested in the last 24 hours and

nation-wide arrests in the last four days have reached 277," said party spokesman Damjan Dhungana at a press briefing.

Police searched the home of Sarbotan Dangol, a leftist leader, and since early morning they have surrounded the house of Siddhi Lal, another prominent communist leader, opposition sources said.

Siddhi Lal is a leader of seven factions of several communist parties that have suppor-

ted the Congress move.

In the latest arrests, 44 leftist students were arrested in the tourist resort town of Pokhara in west Nepal and 20 of them have already been dispatched to jails, banned party sources said.

Five persons who were on a hunger strike for five days protesting arrests without warrant in Palpa, west Nepal, have been released, they said.

The government has also started seizing newspapers. Drishti a weekly newspaper with leftist leanings, was the second publication to be seized this week.

Among those arrested in the last 24 hours was the mayor of the eastern town of Damak, Bal Bahadur Adhikari. He is in the government but has opposition leanings.

The executive committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday called for

lifting a ban on political parties in the kingdom and peaceful political change.

The resolution approved by a majority of the bar said the ban on political parties should be lifted and called "an urgent concern" for "immediate steps towards peaceful changes in favour of the right political organisation."

The bar has approximately 300 barristers and advocates as its members.

Rival Tamils battle, 27 die

COLOMBO, Feb 7. (Agencies): Members of rival Tamil groups fought pitched battles in eastern Sri Lanka and at least 27 people were killed, officials and residents said today.

They said yesterday's battles were between the Tamil Tigers, the most powerful group of guerrillas, and rival militiamen supported by India.

Military officials in Colombo, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said at least 19 people were killed in fighting between the Tigers and members of the Tamil People's Revolutionary Liberation Front at Unnithurai, east of Colombo.

The Tigers attacked members of the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front at Jambaiyala, northeast of Colombo and at least seven people were killed, said residents contacted by telephone.

The military officials confirmed the fighting but said they had no details of casualties.

A sea attack on boats carrying refugees fleeing violence in Sri Lanka killed eight Tamils, injured 19 and left 30 missing on the high seas, police in the Indian city of Madras said today.

Three of six boats that left Jaffna in Sri Lanka yesterday reached India carrying 63 unharmed refugees along with the dead and injured, P. Dorai, director-general of Tamil Nadu state police, told Reuters.

He could not confirm local newspapers reports quoting one of the refugees as saying that the boats were attacked by helicopters.

A total of 120 refugees left Jaffna last night in six boats heading for Zetaranyam refugee camp, one of several in India's Tamil Nadu state, Dorai said.



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RESERVED

75 killed as troops clash with NPA

ZAMBOANGA, Feb 7. (Agencies): Soldiers clashed with suspected communist guerrillas in a four-day battle in the southern Philippines that left at least 67 insurgents and eight government troopers dead, the military reported.

Maj. Hermogenes Esperon said the first major clash this year between soldiers and the communist New People's Army began on Saturday on the outskirts of Makatig town in Zamboanga Del Sur province, about 770 kilometres (480 miles) southeast of Manila.

Esperon, the military's southern command spokesman, said about 200 rebels ambushed an army truck in Makatig, killing a soldier and a government militiaman in the initial volley of gunfire.

Six other soldiers aboard the truck were wounded but they managed to return fire and held off the attackers until reinforcements arrived, Esperon said. He did not say if any rebels were killed or wounded in the initial clash.

Esperon said at least two army battalions later joined the government forces, which then engaged the rebels in skirmishes over four days several towns in three provinces.

He said field reports indicated that 67 rebels and four more soldiers and two government militiamen were killed in the succeeding clashes. Three more soldiers also were wounded, he added.

The Philippine defence chief has formally asked the Senate to pass legislation reimposing the death penalty for coup plotters to help prevent further coup attempts.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos said today he had submitted to Senate President Jovito Salonga a proposed bill defining the crime of coup d'état and prescribing the maximum penalty of death, abolished under the 1987 constitution.

In a letter dated February 6, Ramos said conspiracy to commit a coup and inciting to a coup, along with mutiny had rebellion, should carry the death penalty.

Under present laws, the penalty for rebellion is 12 years in prison.

Two people have been killed and four others wounded in two attacks related to this month's assembly elections for a new Muslim region in the south, the military reported today.

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INTERNATIONAL

JAPAN

Japanese men dropping out of work, sight

TOKYO, Feb 7, (AP): Increasing numbers of Japanese men are dropping from sight, abandoning their jobs, families and homes to pursue personal fulfillment or expressing their sense of alienation from the nation's workaholic culture.

In the last decade, the number of men who have vanished for work-related reasons has almost tripled, police say.

Other Japanese men leave large companies to start independent ventures, or quit office jobs for unorthodox pursuits.

Dedicated corporate minors served as the foundation for Japan's economic resurrection after the devastation of World War II. Legions of dark-suited, team-playing wage earners have logged long hours at work while their wives dutifully took care of home and children.

As Japan's prosperity solidified and women became more independent, some men have re-examined their own lives. Changes in the way people view their personal horizons have led some men toward new-found freedom and other toward unproductive anxiety.

In 1977, a total of 3,341 adult men and women disappeared for work-related reasons, but 10 years later the figure for men alone was almost 10,000 according to the national police agency. Relatives said they believed the men left of their own choice and did not meet with foul play.

Job-related reasons were listed by their families as the most common factor in the disappearance. Work and family tensions are also commonly cited as major factors in increases in mental depression.

among men in recent years. Several studies suggest more and more men are suffering from overwork at Japan's mighty corporations, and that a lack of privacy at home, a sense of declining power within the family and general alienation from family members makes some men dread going home after work.

Psychiatrist Toru Sekiya knows some of the most severely affected victims of this malady. On any given night, his Tokyo clinic houses three to eight lodgers who can't face going home at all.

"Although it only started a few years ago, there are many men on the brink of falling into this kind of depression," Sekiya said.

Sekiya's clinic treats men who suffer from depression associated with alienation

from their families. In all, he has treated only about 60 men with the problem, but says a surge in patients has occurred in the past two years.

Some 40 per cent of male employees at Japan's top corporations surveyed by the Fukoku Mutual Life Insurance company say they choose to go home at least once a week. Of those, 61 per cent said they spend the nights drinking with friends, while over one-third said they drink alone.

Meanwhile, dissatisfaction with work and a greater sense of personal freedom have turned job-hopping from taboo to trend.

Labour Ministry statistics show a 40 per cent increase over the last three years in job-hopping among men, which was almost unheard of just 10 years ago.

These statistics worry the ministry, which recently decided to introduce job counseling services and employment seminars for college students and workers to stem the increase.

The Ministry believes the problem is mostly due to college students deciding what they want to do. With a labour shortage and companies anxious to recruit capable workers, students often commit to jobs they know little about many months before graduating.

"Most of those making job changes belong to the young generation. They tend to be much more individualistic than their fathers," says sociologist Sumiko Iwao, who teaches at Tokyo's Keio University.

But even some older men are discovering

there is life outside the corporate straitjacket.

Kazu Shimizu, 35, left a subsidiary of the Toshiba Corp., where he promoted exports to be a professional race car driver. He also started his own auto-parts company.

"I wanted to be a pro driver before I joined Toshiba but I went there because I wanted stability and because I was also interested in international trade," Shimizu said.

He made a wise choice. The Toshiba subsidiary, Toshiba Audio Industries, has since gone bankrupt, but Shimizu has no regrets about his current occupation.

A salaried worker at a major construction firm by day escapes the tenses of his office by playing bass in a jazz bar at night.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

NEW YORK: Actor Robert Duvall has prepared himself for roles by handing out with derricks on New York City's bowery, riding horses with the Texas rangers and tramping through a Louisiana swamp with an alligator hunter.

He is not sure if it was all worth it. "You could do all the research in the world — sometimes it pays off, sometimes it doesn't," Duvall says in the March issue of *Smart* magazine. "Sometimes you don't have time. You got to be a human being up there. That's the most important thing."

Duvall, who won an academy award for "The Missouri Breaks" and stars in "The Godfather and The Great Santini," says he is a stickler for detail in his characters and in films in general.

"When actors start acting bigger than life, bigger than the people they play, then they're in trouble," Duvall said. "For example, I can't even talk about *Glory With The Wind*. You don't see people in the south like that. It's a joke." (AP)

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania: A scratchy throat limited Paul McCartney's vocal range, but it did not matter to fans who had waited more than a quarter-century for the former Beatle to return to Pittsburgh.

McCartney performed Sunday at a sold-out show before some of the same fans who chanted "Paul, Paul, Paul" during the Beatles' only local appearance in September 1964.

McCartney's cold affected his upper range on songs such as "Jet and Got To Get You Into My Life." He also trimmed about 15 minutes from Sunday's show, eliminating "Band On The Run," "Maybe I'm Amazed" and "I Want A Shame" from his set list.

But fans who waved signs reading "Paul Rules" hardly noticed as they sang along with Beatles' standards such as "Let It Be," "Yesterday" and "Back In The USSR."

"We used to play Beatles when we were kids, and my cousin always made me be Ringo," said Cindy Dinslaken, 33, of Youngstown, Ohio. "But I always loved Paul because he's so good looking." (AP)

New York comedian Rob: Williams has presented a \$227,000 check to New York City for the homeless from Comic Relief.

He signed the check over to New York City Mayor David Dinkins Sunday at St Vincent's Medical Center.

The money comes from the \$9 million that was raised by Comic Relief, a telethon that featured Williams, Whoopi Goldberg, Billy Crystal and other top comedians.

Comic Relief has donated funds to help the homeless in 23 US cities. It has given New York \$580,000, which was administered through St Vincent's Medical Centre and the United Hospital fund to pay for the medical care of more than 15,000 homeless people. (AP)

NEW YORK: Actress Helen Hayes recalled how songwriter Irving Berlin cemented her relationship with her husband-to-be as she and other show business luminaries remembered him in a warm-hearted, two-hour Broadway tribute Tuesday.

The salute to Berlin, who died in September at 101, was held at the Music Box Theatre, which Berlin and Sam Harris built in 1921 and which the Berlin family still owns.

It was presented by Berlin's daughters, Mary Elin Barrett, Lisa Everett and Elizabeth Peters. The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, which Berlin helped establish, produced it. (AP)

Charles appeals to cut tropical hardwood use

LONDON, Feb 7, (AP): Prince Charles appealed to architects and planners to minimise the use of tropical hardwoods, because there is no way of knowing whether the hardwoods come from properly managed forests.

In a speech at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Charles said deforestation had increased sharply since the International Tropical Timber Organisation and the tropical forest action plan were established.

"In the country, we avoid purchasing tropical hardwood products unless we are satisfied they come from sustainably managed forests," the heir to Britain's throne said. "But how exactly we can be satisfied on that score without a proper labelling scheme I simply cannot imagine."

Marseille Threat to sue

PARIS, Feb 7, (Reuters): Proud citizens angered by Marseille's image as a home for gangsters and smugglers are threatening to sue any one who defames France's second city and major seaport.

The New Look Foundation, grouping 30 local organisations, has 750 Marseille lawyers who say they are ready to spring into action if the southern city's name is taken in vain.

Its tough reputation was scarcely improved when district Mayor Jean-Jacques Pechard was murdered last month, apparently victim of a battle for control of Health clinics.

"See Marseille and die" and "Marseille-Chicago," quipped the national media after the killing.

BEVERLY HILLS, California: Comedian Mitza Berle is selling his longtime home here because it contains too many memories of his late wife.

"I didn't have to sell the house," Berle said. "But there are too many memories there, you know, after being married 36 years."

The 81-year-old comic is negotiating to lease a penthouse on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles for \$12,000 a month. The house sold for more than \$3 million in cash to the owners of a mortgage company.

The 50-year-old home was put up for sale in October following the death of Berle's wife Ruth, in April. They had lived in the house for 19 years.

Berle has asked \$3.65 million, but apparently the property needs work.

"It has a lot of character but needs updating, and that's what the buyers plan to do," said Yeffa Lerner, who sold the house. (AP)

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana: Singers Willie Nelson, John Cougar Mellencamp and Neil Young are preparing for the fourth farm aid concert.

Mellencamp, a native of Seymour in Indiana, says that raising money is important but so is creating the awareness of "how important the family farmer is to us all." The concert was scheduled for April 7 in Indianapolis.

Nelson said Farm Aid IV will focus on the ability of farmers to provide safe food at reasonable prices. (AP)

FARGO, North Dakota: A boy hospitalized since November for treatment of a malignant brain tumour has gotten special medicine from two of his heroes: Tyrese Braxton of the Denver Broncos and Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls.

Fourteen-year-old Darren Aronson, an active athlete before his illness hit him the past two months as a result of the tumour, was cheered Sunday by a visit from Braxton, a former north Dakota state university football player.

Darren's father, Michael Aronson, said his son's meeting with Braxton was a wish come true. Darren's other dream is to play one-on-one with Jordan, who sent him a letter and an autographed poster.

Idol serious

British rock star Billy Idol was listed in serious condition Feb 6 after breaking his right leg and suffering other injuries in a motorcycle accident. Idol is pictured at the Sept 14, 1984 MTV awards. (Reuters wirephoto)

Panhandling right upheld

Begging in NY subways

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (UPI): Panhandling, despite a nationwide backlash against it, has some defenders who claim it is a constitutional right.

But federal judge Leonard Sand probably outraged majority opinion in the United States with his recent ruling that begging in New York City's subways is a form of free speech protected by the first amendment.

The ruling, which has sparked heated editorials and debate, could have widespread implications in a nation where half the states ban or limit begging. It could prove persuasive in future panhandling cases.

Predictably, Mitch Snyder, perhaps the nation's best-known advocate for the homeless, praised the ruling.

Snyder noted that it was consistent with Supreme Court findings that professional fund raisers have a first amendment right to solicit donations in a public places.

Contending that panhandling bans are unenforceable, Snyder said, "there's some activity you just can't regulate. When people are desperate, they will beg."

Snyder, of course, was referring to those who panhandle in order to eat. But many of Washington's panhandlers eat and sleep at the homeless shelter Snyder established on Capitol Hill.

Although adequately fed and housed, some of them continue

to beg on the streets in order to support alcohol and drug addictions that have rendered them desperate.

The begging backlash in New York comes from subway riders outraged by the aggressive entreaties of panhandlers who harass and intimidate them.

In Washington, daily commuters who once donated money to street people now object to the increasing numbers of them who beg and sleep at subway entrances.

Complaints from the public in Milwaukee prompted an ordinance that sets a fine for panhandling.

"It's effective to the point that we don't have a lot of begging in public," police Capt. George Hegerty said.

Drew Cooper, 22, a student at Marquette University near downtown Milwaukee, agreed.

"I usually see one guy every two or three days," he said. "That's about it, though. Once they ask, if you reject them it's so problem. They don't hassle you or anything."

But Milwaukee is not New York, where city fathers felt compelled to devise a military-style strategy to rid the subways of panhandlers.

The New York Metropolitan Transit Authority's operation enforcement was barely chugging along when it was derailed by a class-action suit filed on behalf of Papa Joe Waller and other homeless panhandlers.

Approving the suit, the court said the ruling was constitutional.

Police said they would not interfere with the ruling, but would continue to monitor the subways.

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Deserter freed

Proud to be back home

FORT SILL, Oklahoma, Feb 7, (AP): A GI who fled to East Germany 30 years ago for fear a truck accident would land him in the stockade was set free yesterday after the US army decided against court-martialing him as a deserter.

"I'm going to live it up," said 53-year-old Pvt. Arnold Kephart after his release from confinement at Fort Sill. "And then I'm going to sit down and try to work my way in life as I did before."

Kephart was arrested last week upon arriving in Omaha, Nebraska, to see his family for the first time since he fled to the communist bloc in 1960. About 30 family members were waiting at the airport, but only two got to speak to him.

Instead of a court-martial, the army yesterday granted Kephart's request for an other-than-honourable discharge. He had been held at the army base since Thursday.

"I don't know how I'm going to say it, but I'll say I'm proud to be back in the United States," Kephart told reporters outside Fort Sill.

Kephart took refuge behind the iron curtain after a truck accident he had been driving on an assignment to France crashed while he was returning to his base in Heidelberg, West Germany. The truck also contained three corked bottles of French wine, he said.

"in the crash, the wine got broke up on our uniforms. The police, they thought that we had been drunk... We didn't have one single drink from the wine," Kephart told the Omaha World-Herald on Monday. Kephart said French police locked them up, and the soldier's superiors took them into custody.

"They told me that I would get prison. I would go many years locked up and then I would have to pay for that rig."

CHANEL

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Dispute over Reagan testimony

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (AP): A US appeals judge asked government lawyers yesterday why Oliver North was not permitted to call former President Ronald Reagan as a witness at the former presidential aide's Iran-Contra trial.

Judge Lawrence Silberman of the US circuit court of appeals also asked why North was not allowed to see written answers Reagan supplied to investigators.

Government attorney Gerard Lynch told the court hearing North's appeal that the former president's written answers, which were supplied to a federal grand jury investigating the Iran-Contra scandal, would not have been helpful.

But the judge said the US system of justice is based on providing a defendant with a wide range of material for possible use in his defense.

Iran-Contra involved the illegal diversion of money from secret US arms sales to Iran to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels when such assistance was banned by law.

North's attorney, Barry Simon, argued that Reagan should have been called to testify to show that he authorized keeping secret the US connection to a November 1985 shipment of Hawk missiles from Israel to Iran.

Reagan's appearance had been called for at the time of North's trial last year but judge, Gerhard Gesell, rejected the request. He ruled there was no evidence in the record to suggest that the former president authorized any illegal activities by north.

On Monday, US district judge Harold Greene ordered Reagan to provide videotaped testimony at the Feb 20 Iran-Contra trial of former National Security Advisor John Poindexter. The judge gave Reagan and President George Bush until Friday if they wanted to invoke executive privilege to avoid testimony by the former president.

Greene also renewed his order that Reagan immediately turn over 33 diary entries to Poindexter. Reagan invoked executive privilege on that order.

North was convicted on May 4, 1989, of obstructing Congress, altering and destroying National Security Council documents and accepting an illegal gratuity. He was sentenced to two years probation, fined \$150,000 and ordered to perform 1,200 hours of community service.

Silberman said that if North had been working for the secretary of state instead of the president, there would have been no question that the cabinet member would have been called to testify.

Lynch responded that North had no direct contact with Reagan and that the former National Security Council aide formed "impressions" of what he was to do from his immediate boss, Poindexter.

North's attorneys contend Reagan's testimony would have been critically important in North's defense against the obstruction charge.



Oliver North. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mandela in intensive talks with govt

Ultra-rightist leader brands de Klerk a crook: delay in release may cost momentum, Boesak

PAARI, South Africa, Feb 7, (AP): Continuing to delay Nelson Mandela's release could cost the government momentum in seeking reform talks with the disenfranchised black majority, said an anti-apartheid leader who met with the imprisoned black leader yesterday.

The Rev. Allan Boesak said Mandela wants the government to lift the 3 1/2-year-old state of emergency and free all political prisoners, but would accept freedom if the demands were not met.

"His release is not in his own hands," Boesak said. "It is the responsibility of the South African government to release him."

The government wants Mandela, the most popular leader among South Africa's blacks, to play a conciliatory role when he emerges after more than 27 years in prison. He has been mentioned as a possible mediator of black-white talks on power-sharing called for by President F.W. de Klerk.

If his demands are not met, Mandela will agree to leave prison "but he will state his unhappiness with

the government," said Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

Boesak said Mandela did not know when he might go free and was engaged in "intense contacts" with the government.

"He must be released soon or de Klerk will lose momentum," Boesak said after he and his wife, Dorothy, met with Mandela for more than three hours at Victor Verster prison farm north of Cape Town.

De Klerk, in a speech Friday, lifted a 30-year ban on Mandela's African National Congress, eased restrictions on other opposition groups and said Mandela, 71, would be freed soon.

Mandela considered the speech "bold, courageous and hopeful" but did not believe it cleared the way for talks between the government and ANC, Boesak said.

Gerrit Viljoen, the cabinet minister assigned to open negotiations with leaders of the voteless black majority, told reporters Mandela's release "is some-

thing that is to take place very soon."

In a later speech to Parliament, Viljoen said he envisioned South Africa being led by a coalition of parties in 10 years, with the long-ruling National Party no longer in charge.

Viljoen and Foreign Minister Pieter Botha rejected claims the government was obstructing Mandela's release by not repealing the state of emergency or freeing all political prisoners.

"Don't believe people who say the government is the only obstacle," Botha said, repeating de Klerk's assertion that Mandela's safety and personal considerations caused the delay.

■ An ultra-right South African politician branded de Klerk a crook today and declared that the country faced the prospect of being run by black communists.

Conservative Party spokesman Koos van der Merwe's remarks at a news conference came as de Klerk met his cabinet for the first time since his

bombshell speech on Friday legalising the ANC.

Van der Merwe said de Klerk had no mandate from the country's five million whites for the sweeping concessions to be announced to the voiceless majority of 27 million blacks. He declared that the Conservatives, who advocate a return to strict apartheid, now had majority white support.

"I say Mr de Klerk and his cabinet and his party are a lot of political crooks. Why didn't they tell the electorate on the 6th of September what they are telling them now?" he said.

"We don't want to be dominated by the Americans, the British, the Chinese or the blacks," van der Merwe said.

"We want to govern ourselves and what is facing us now is nothing but black ANC communist domination in this country."

The Conservative Party said it would stage protests and strikes to drive de Klerk from power and block his plans to share power with blacks.



Boesak answers questions. (Reuters wirephoto)

REAGAN ORDERED TO TURN OVER DIARIES ...



BCCI turning over records

Drug money laundering

TAMPA, Florida, Feb 7, (AP): An international bank sentenced to forfeit \$1.5 million for laundering drug money has begun turning over records to prosecutors, including documents of financial dealings with Manuel Noriega.

The deposed Panamanian dictator was a longtime customer of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International branch in Panama. Court records show he maintained accounts totaling at least \$23 million at various BCCI branches before he was indicted in drug cases in Tampa and Miami in February 1988.

The government is trying to trace his money.

Although prosecutors didn't mention Noriega, they said the bank had pledged full co-operation.

Sentencing Monday resolved charges against the bank. Five bank officers remain on trial, including Amjad Awan, long-time personal banker to Noriega.

US district judge W. Terrell Hodges listened to bank attorneys and government prosecutors defend the plea agreement before deciding to stick to terms of the agreement despite calls from Congress for harsher penalties.

The Luxembourg-based bank, with branches in 73 countries, could have faced up to \$22 million in fines. Subsidiaries BCCI S.A. and BCCI Overseas Ltd admitted to conspiracy and 30 acts of money laundering.

The two divisions pleaded guilty Jan 16 to cocaine-related money-laundering charges, agreed to forfeit a record \$14 million plus \$1 million in interest frozen earlier, and promised to open their books.

Chart links cartel to Noriega

BOGOTA, Feb 7, (UPI): A Colombian arrested on drug trafficking charges was carrying an organization chart that appeared to link ousted Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega to the Medellin Cartel, police sources reported yesterday.

Those who have criticised the agreement are misinformed and did not understand the facts of the case," said bank attorney Lawrence Wechsler.

"This is no slap on the wrist," said Greg Keech, first assistant by plainclothes agents Monday in Bogota.

The State Department yesterday denied Panama was resisting US pressure to change its banking laws to prevent laundering of drug money, which the United States said was widespread under deposed strongman Noriega.

When he was arrested Vega had a chart containing 28 names of supposed associates, police said. The list was headed by Noriega, who turned himself in to US forces following the invasion of Panama in December. He is now awaiting trial in Miami on drug trafficking charges.

The former dictator has long been suspected on working with Colombian drug organization to launder drug money and ferry cocaine from the Andes to the United States.

A Bogota newspaper reported that this was the first time Colombian authorities had seized evidence providing an apparent link between Noriega and the Colombian cartels.

The chart also supposedly contained the names of individuals and companies that ran processing cocaine from Colombian clandestine laboratories through Panama and Mexico to the US border, El Tiempo reported yesterday.

Fourteen Colombians have been sent to the United States to face trial since President Virgilio Barco re-established extradition to battle drug cartels last August.

Also on the drug front, El Tiempo reported that US Ambassador Thomas McNamara told Interior Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds the United States was confident President George Bush would be safe during his five-hour visit to Colombia on Feb 15.

Bush is arriving next week to meet with the presidents of Colombia, Peru and Bolivia to put together an international strategy to battle drug trafficking.

■ Nine days before US President George Bush meets three South American leaders for a drug-fighting summit in Cartagena, police yesterday found 80 kg (175 pounds) of cocaine in the Caribbean City ready to be smuggled out of Colombia, police said.

Cartagena port police said their men, acting on a tip, found the cocaine in a small boat inside a shipping container, due to be sent to Beirut.

Thatcher call for lifting ban

Mandela girl plea Keep pressure

TAMPA, Florida, Feb 7, (AP): The daughter of imprisoned activist Nelson Mandela said that foreign corporations should continue to put pressure on the South African government through economic sanctions.

Changes in South Africa have not eradicated racism in the country, Maki Mandela said at a news conference at the University of South Florida before delivering a lecture.

"Apartheid is still very much alive," she said, but added that there is real hope of reconciliation between blacks and whites in South Africa.

On Friday, President F.W. de Klerk lifted the ban on the African National Congress and other opposition groups, partially lifted a 43-month-old state of emergency and announced that Mandela would be freed along with some other political detainees.

The 35-year-old student and Fulbright scholar at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst was 8 when her father was jailed for treason as leader of the then-outlawed ANC.

De Klerk has said Mandela would soon be released.

If she could send her father a message, Ms Mandela said she would like to tell him "he should be strong. South Africa is facing most difficult times... it's going to be very challenging, times when everything will seem hopeless."

Ms Mandela said the first time she can remember talking at length with her father was when she was 16. The two spoke at the prison where he lives, separated by the thick glass of a visitor's booth and closely watched by guards.

"I don't know my father that well as a father. We never had an opportunity to relate to each other," she said.

"I'm looking forward to his release... take walks, argue, debate," she said.

The violence in South Africa won't subside until apartheid is dismantled, she said, adding that she feared there would be backlash from right-wing whites to De Klerk's actions.

Non-binding measures include the new investment ban and a ban on tourism promotion.

■ The African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla movement says it is still drafting an economic blueprint for a free South Africa but favours a mixed economy.

A top official of the group said a decision on whether to nationalize big firms would depend on the strength of the economy once the apartheid system had been dismantled.

"The ANC is still formulating

an economy for a post-apartheid South Africa," Max Sisulu, head of the ANC's economics department, told Reuters in Lusaka on Monday.

The movement was consulting with big businesses, black entrepreneurs, trade unionists and farmers, he said.

The freedom charter political blueprint of the Lusaka-based ANC—legalized in South Africa last week after a 30-year-old ban—advocates state control of the economy and nationalization of mines, banks and large corporations.



Passports sold

A Chinese vendor in a Chinese neighbourhood of Panama City tells a photographer not to take her picture. In the past several years, some 2,500 Pan-

amanian passports were sold to Chinese citizens by government officials who made some \$30 million.

Haiti rivals threaten to boycott polls

POR-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Feb 7, (AP): A key political alliance threatened Monday to pull out of Haiti's general elections unless the military government allows exiled leaders and United Nations observers to monitor the balloting.

Marc Bazin, the presidential candidate of the National Front for Democracy and Progress, also presented four other conditions for the alliance's participation in this year's elections.

They were that the government move up the presidential balloting to July, assure Haitians it will respect the constitution, release uncharged political prisoners and provide fair trials for those who have been charged.

"Our position is clear. If the electoral council does not modify the timetable, we will not participate in elections," Bazin said at a press conference.

Since the alliance is the only political group left in the campaign, its position casts doubt over the elections, which would be the first since 1987, when voting was canceled after a massacre at the polls.

Other parties have refused to take part in the balloting as long as Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril remains in power. Many candidates have also been jailed or deported. Bazin, an economist, is the only officially declared presidential candidate.

"Sanctions have played major part in bringing South Africa this far. To lift the pressure now would be premature. The time to lift sanctions is one of political negotiations and understanding," said reformed church leader Allan Boesak.

Meanwhile, local business have become expert sanction busters.

JOHN LEE



With a portrait of himself in the background, Ortega gestures during an address. (Reuters wirephoto)

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (AP): The State Department accused Nicaragua's leftist government yesterday of impeding US assistance to an opposition coalition attempting to unseat President Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua's Feb 25 election.

Richard Boucher, a department spokesman, said the Sandinistas' delay in releasing all of the US money resulted in the curtailment of election support programmes and had raised doubts about the integrity of the election.

The Sandinistas have denied blocking release of the funds.

Boucher acknowledged that the coalition, the United Nicaraguan Opposition, recently received approximately \$1.5 million of its \$1.6 million US grant.

The assistance has been delivered according to the channels stipulated by Nicaraguan election law, which requires that a 50 per cent tax be levied on foreign contributions to political parties. That tax goes to the supreme electoral council for election-related activities such as the printing of ballots.

The election for president matches Ortega against the candidate of the coalition, Violeta Chamorro.

Aspin blasts military spending

Cheney, Powell defend US defence budget despite political changes

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (AP): The US government's \$292.1-billion defence budget fails "to match the new political realities at home or abroad," the chairman of the House of Representatives armed services committee charged yesterday.

Democratic Congressman Les Aspin said the argument by the administration of President George Bush that it needs a modernised force to get a US-Soviet agreement on reducing strategic weapons no longer holds true.

"You can get an arms control agreement with a robust" strategic budget,

Aspin said, noting economic pressures in the Soviet Union to reduce defence spending and congressional opposition to the administration's proposed increase in strategic programmes.

But Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said that without a strong strategic budget, the United States might get a poor agreement that would not serve its best interests.

"This administration's approach reflects old thinking rather than these new realities," Aspin said. "The problem is the budget doesn't match the political realities

at home or abroad."

In their third appearance before a congressional panel in less than a week, Cheney and Gen. Colin Powell, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, defended the administration's budget against charges that it is a poor response to the tumultuous changes in Eastern Europe and the diminishing Soviet threat.

The notion that it is not responsive to the changes does not hold up," Cheney said.

"There is new thinking in the (Defence Department)," Powell said.

The defence secretary said Monday the Bush administration's plan to modernise its strategic forces, reduce troop levels in Europe and cancel some 20 conventional programmes "preserves the elements of what we think is essential in terms of protecting the nation's security."

The budget proposal for fiscal 1991 would allow the United States to look back in a decade and say, "we did in fact undertake a build-down, a careful, orderly restructuring of our forces," Cheney told the Senate budget committee.

Pap test to save elderly

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (AP): Pap smear screening to detect cervical cancer, combined with appropriate treatment, could save the lives of many elderly women, according to a study by the Office of Technology Assessment.

Medicare, the federal health care programme for the elderly, will begin paying for Pap tests in July 1990, and OTA said the screening will be most cost-effective if it is combined with efforts to encourage high-risk women to be tested.

According to the study:

■ Women at high risk of cervical cancer are smokers, poor, non-white, were young at first intercourse and had multiple sexual partners.

■ Studies have found that women who have been screened are one-half to one-tenth as likely to develop cervical cancer as other women.

■ Elderly women appear to have lower rates of localised, non-invasive cervical tumours than younger women, but the elderly have higher rates of invasive cervical cancer and higher death rates from cervical cancer.

■ Since elderly women are less likely to be screened for cervical cancer than younger women, older women are more likely to be in advanced stages of the disease when it is diagnosed.

Citing National Cancer Institute figures for 1985, the report said 1.1 white women per 100,000 under 50—but 2.4 black women—died of cervical cancer. Among women over 50, the rate was 7.5 for whites and 21.1 for blacks.

The average Medicare payment for a Pap smear will be \$1.37, though actual physician and laboratory charges may be higher, the report said. The programme will cover Pap tests once every three years.

Drop in male cancer death

NEW YORK, Feb 7, (AP): The number of lung cancer deaths among men is expected to drop in 1990 for the first time since at least 1953.

It is annual Cancer Facts and Figures, the American Cancer Society predicted Monday that 92,000 men will die this year of lung cancer, down from 93,000 last year and the first decline since the projections began 37 years ago.

About 50,000 women will die of lung cancer, up from 49,000 last year.

Bush continues push for defence posture

'Now is not the time to let down our guard'

LOS ANGELES, Feb 7, (UPI): President George Bush, on the west coast to press his case for a sustained US defence posture, had words of praise for the reform efforts of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev but a warning for Americans that now is not the time to "let down our guard."

Overseeing mock war games at the 1,000-square-mile training reserve at Fort Irwin, Calif., where Soviet-style troops easily overran their play American counterparts yesterday, Bush took the occasion to applaud the moves toward pluralism in the Soviet Union and conceded that "events in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union have changed our strategic defence posture."

But amid the talk of troop cuts and peace dividends and the display of tanks,

troops and helicopters in the dusty Mojave desert, Bush backed the \$30 billion defence budget he had proffered for fiscal 1991 with words of caution.

"It is important not to let these encouraging changes, political or military, lull us into a sense of complacency. We cannot let down our guard against a worldwide threat," Bush said in remarks yesterday to the army soldiers gathered for the impressive display of high-tech military firepower.

Though the make-believe enemy were renamed Krassnovians—a move that probably reflects the changing times, one army colonel acknowledged—the attack was based on Soviet techniques because he said at least 30 nations are armed with Soviet equipment or trained by their advisers.

"The Soviet Union still does maintain formidable forces," Bush said to dissuade those now clamouring for harsher cutbacks in US forces and major weapons systems in light of lessened tensions in Europe.

"Military challenges to democracy persist in every hemisphere and America must always be prepared to fight for freedom and security."

Concluding the pep talk at the start of the three-day campaign by referring to his recent invasion of Panama, Bush said, "now, back to war."

Bush was headed up the coast today to the San Francisco Bay area, where he planned first to tour the Lawrence Livermore Nuclear Weapons Laboratory and highlight progress of the "Star Wars".

The strategic defence initiative, for which Bush wants almost an additional \$1 billion next year, looks as a prime target for congressional budget cutters hoping to win bigger immediate savings from the reduced threat of war in Europe.

White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said Bush would use a mid-day speech before the Commonwealth club to defend the budget blueprint of his Defence Secretary, Dick Cheney.

And with 45 years of US foreign policy in the process of being redrawn, the President planned to address the collapse of Communism and "changes in our national defense posture as a result," Fitzwater said.

The two sides must agree on definitions of equipment to be covered by an accord and a verification system for ensuring compliance.

Bush offered in a speech last week to set a ceiling of 195,000 troops for both the United States and the Soviet Union in Central Europe. The United States would maintain an overall limit of 225,000 soldiers, including forces in Britain and southern Europe.

Bush last May had recommended an overall cap of 275,000 for both sides.

The Soviet Union has an estimated 563,000 troops stationed in Europe outside its national territory, about 400,000 of them in the central region.



Male bastion falls

Woman's Royal Naval rating Crystal Simmonds is given a helping hand on board the Royal Navy's HMS Gloucester in London Feb. 5. Simmonds is one of 2,500 Wrens now entitled to serve on warships at sea. The Armed Forces Ministry announced the decision removing a male bastion of the Royal Navy. Several other Nato navies have women aboard their ships including the USA, Canada and Holland. (Reuters photo)

Bush gets allies' backing

BRUSSELS, Feb 7, (AP): The Nato allies have unanimously backed US President George Bush's proposal for further deep cuts in US and Soviet troops in Europe, an alliance official said yesterday.

The offer will likely be put on the bargaining table Thursday at East-West negotiations in Vienna on slashing troops and conventional arms in Europe, said the official, who demanded anonymity.

The official said the allies may present additional proposals, possibly concerning combat aircraft and helicopters, at the negotiating session. He did not provide details.

Negotiators for the 16 nations of the North-Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the seven of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact are under pressure to wrap up an agreement by the end of the year.

An accord would dramatically cut missile battle tanks, artillery, armoured troops carriers, combat aircraft and helicopters, and troops in a region spanning the Atlantic Ocean to the Ural mountains in the Soviet Union. The West wants to reduce the Soviets' ability to launch a lightning offensive.

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Bush offered in a speech last week to set a ceiling of 195,000 troops for both the United States and the Soviet Union in Central Europe. The United States would maintain an overall limit of 225,000 soldiers, including forces in Britain and southern Europe.

Bush last May had recommended an overall cap of 275,000 for both sides.

The Soviet Union has an estimated 563,000 troops stationed in Europe outside its national territory, about 400,000 of them in the central region.

On methods to raise even more money in 1990.

The performance of the democratic groups, while an improvement over past non-federal election years, was again dwarfed by that of the Republican's money machines. But tempering the Republican edge is the fact that more democrats, who hold a majority in both chambers of Congress, enjoy the lapsed donor preference for giving to the individual campaign coffers of incumbents.

Thus Republicans, with more challengers than incumbents, are more reliant on national party

support.

The FEC data showed that the three Republican committees spent \$72.2 million of the \$80.4 million they took in last year.

But because of cash left over from 1988, the Republican groups entered this year already armed with \$14.4 million. The overwhelming bulk of that money — \$10.6 million — was in the coffers of the national republican senatorial committee, which is hoping to erode the Democratic majority in that chamber this year as part of a strategy aimed at recapturing the Senate in the 1992 elections.

As we enter the 1990s, the United States is shaping its military to meet a changing international environment," Bush said yesterday. "That may be potentially safer but one that will almost surely have its share of uncertainties and dangers."

At a political fund-raiser in Los Angeles, Bush's remarks were interrupted briefly by a protester, one of dozens who demonstrated outside the posh Century Plaza Hotel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Aids among gays lesser: Fewer gay men are developing AIDS than had been projected, a government researcher said Tuesday, but new cases among intravenous drug users are growing as had been expected.

Mitchell H. Gail, a National Cancer Institute epidemiologist, said a study prepared by NCI scientists says that the number of reported AIDS cases among gay men began declining around the middle of 1987, around the time that the anti-AIDS drug AZT and other AIDS therapies came in to wide use.

The study shows about 36 per cent fewer gay men have developed AIDS than had been projected by the public health service. At the same time, AIDS cases among intravenous drug users have been progressing as projected. (AP)



Video cassettes destroyed

Over 300,000 pirate video cassettes valued at \$50 million pesos (\$4 million) are crushed by this bulldozer Feb 6 at the grounds where the Ibero-American Expo 90 is now in progress. Destruction of the illegal tapes was sponsored by FAP (Federation for Anti-illegal Traffic). (Reuters photo)

Latin America

Firemen race to save forest: Firemen are racing to save some 250 near-extinct golden lion tamarins from a forest fire that has ravaged a wildlife reserve for rare animals in southeast Brazil. (AP)

More than 250 firemen, police and biologists were unable Tuesday to check the fire, which started Saturday in the Poco das Antas wildlife reserve, 80 miles (128 kilometres) northeast of Rio, said reserve director Dionizio Pessamini.

Pessamini said the fire had burned about half of the 12,400-acre (5,000 hectare) reserve, the last remaining stronghold for the tamarin and a sanctuary for rare sloths, alligators, monkeys and jaguars.

Panels push aid to Panama: Two congressional committees in Washington moved Tuesday to provide the first slice of emergency US aid to help Panama recover from US trade sanctions and the December invasion that ousted Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The House of Representatives Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees easily approved identical legislation to send \$42 million in immediate humanitarian assistance and to enable President George Bush to provide another \$500 million in loans, guarantees and incentives for private investment. (AP)

Rebel chiefs to run for mayor: The two top leaders of Colombia's M-19 guerrilla group registered on Tuesday to stand in two of the country's main mayoral races, a rebel spokesman said.

Leader Carlos Pizarro registered for the March 11 mayoral elections in the capital, Bogota, and his number two Antonio Navarro Wolf registered to stand in Cali, Colombia's third-largest city. (Reuters photo)

Helmsley denies her remarks

NEW YORK, Feb 7, (AP): Convicted tax evader Leona Helmsley, a millionaire, denies telling a housekeeper "only the little people pay taxes" and predicts she won't go to jail.

In her first interview since her August conviction, Helmsley told a US television network, Fox, that the quote attributed to her during her trial on tax evasion charges was "an out-and-out lie."

This is the most ludicrous, ridiculous thing that ever happened to me in my entire life ... We paid a fortune in taxes and I sat down with a housekeeper, and I said 'do you know that only the little people pay taxes,' he said.

"This is nonsense," she said. "I'm the one paying the taxes. We paid \$344 million ... I really don't know where it came from."

Helmsley, convicted of evading more than \$1.2 million in taxes between 1983 and 1985, was sentenced to four years in prison and ordered to pay \$7.1 million fine and \$1.7 million in back taxes.

Asked how she would survive if her appeal fails, Helmsley said: "If I went to jail? I'm not going to jail. I've done nothing. I can't believe ... that the system in the United States of America has stopped working."

Flag hurled at Queen

WAIKANGI, New Zealand, Feb 7, (UPI): A demonstrator threw a furled black flag at Britain's Queen Elizabeth as she arrived yesterday to speak at celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the European settlement of New Zealand.

The flag did not hit the monarch, but fell harmlessly into her open car, and the queen smiled throughout the incident.

A young Auckland woman was arrested and charged for disorderly behaviour, police said.

Several other protesters, most of them Maori, disrupted official speeches given to celebrate the signing in 1840 of the treaty at Waitangi between settlers and native Maori tribesmen.

Demonstrators waved banners saying Maori had suffered 100 years of oppression and lost their land to the Europeans.

The queen's address drew loud applause from the crowd, which quickly shouted down protesters so that her speech could be heard.

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Kaifu changes election tactics

TOKYO, Feb 7, (Reuter): At the start of the Feb 3-17 campaign Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, alluding to the retreat of communism in Eastern Europe, warned of the dangers of socialism and appealed to voters to reaffirm their 40-year-old choice of democracy.

But now as the campaign progresses, Kaifu has backed away from the democracy-or-death question, mainly because the public was not responding.

Senior figures in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party had criticised Kaifu's campaign line, saying that only a tiny minority of Japanese now seriously considered choosing the path to state socialism.

"Some say the LDP has defined this election as one of a choice between liberalism or socialism. That is an error. That decision has already been made both historically and globally," Kaifu now says.

He is now echoing arguments by opposition leaders that Japan made that choice after World War II when it ratified a new constitution.

"This election is about what to do with issues as we enter a new era," Kaifu said in a speech in Tokyo. He has toned down jibes at the divided opposition which figured in early campaign utterances.

Kaifu emphasises promises to stabilise skyrocketing land prices, cleanse Japan of money politics and rationalise the unpopular sales tax, all three perhaps closer to the hearts and minds of Japan's 90 million voters than high-flown rhetoric.

Chairwoman Takako Doi of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) meantime brushes aside the premier's dire warnings in last week's televised debate, saying her party has long ago formally dropped the goal of socialist revolution.

Rather than meet Kaifu's earlier broad-brush attacks for word, Doi, in her stumping speeches, has also focused more and more on concrete issues.

These include her party's plan to re-introduce the commodity tax, an indirect tax once levied on "luxury" items. It was abolished when the three per cent sales tax was introduced last year.

Doi's comments on the commodity tax triggered sharp comments from left and right, the LDP attacking it as "irresponsible" and the Buddhist-backed Komeito supporting it.

The JSP-led opposition majority bloc in the upper house of parliament passed a bill to abolish the hated sales tax last year, but it was killed in the LDP-controlled lower house.

All 512 seats in the lower house are up for grabs in the February 18 elections. Pundits say the LDP may just slide home with a simple majority, with the help of conservative independents.

Doi has also escalated her virulent attacks on the LDP's "money politics", zeroing in on the 30 billion yen (\$208 million) election fund the ruling party collected from automakers and electronic firms, which made a killing when the commodity tax was scrapped.

"This is double fraud, sales tax and money politics," Doi charged. ■ Fifty million Japanese have now signed a petition calling on Moscow to return a group of small islands the Soviet Union has held since 1945, Kyodo news agency said today.

The signatures on the petition, which was started in 1965, represent about 40 per cent of Japan's 123 million people.

Costlier than defence budget in Japan

Business entertainment

TOKYO, Feb 7, (AP): The Maire D' guides your party through the twilight gloom of the bar. You and your host, a manager in an immensely powerful Japanese bank, are invited to sit on a large divan.

You are at dinner at one of Tokyo's countless elegant restaurants, where Kimono-clad women serve exquisite dishes, washed down with tiny cups of hot sake. The sake may be flecked with bits of gold.

And the cost of dinner may be more than \$3,000.

Afterwards, your banker companion suggests going to "his bar" for a night cap. There, a pretty young woman in a leather miniskirt snuggles against male guests' shoulders, pouring whiskey. Whiskey, in fact, seems to be the only drink in the house. Another hostess lights customers' cigarettes.

The bill for the bar: more than \$600.

Japan's top restaurants and bars spare nothing on luxury. But the cost of Japanese business entertainment has gone through the roof.

Despite foreigners' complaints, a plea from the business community, and a political scandal that grew in part out of the wine and dining of officials, corporate entertainment spending continues to rise.

These days, dinner for four at a swank "ryotei" restaurant — where geisha hold forth with mournful ballads and witty stories and guests feast on prawns so fresh they wriggle on the plate — can cost one million yen (\$6,900).

In 1989, the cost of entertaining climbed 8.7 per cent to a record 4.55 trillion yen (\$31 billion), according to the national tax adminis-

tration, surpassing the 4.14 trillion yen (\$29 billion) budgeted for Japan's defence.

The rise occurred despite a call from Keidanren, the nation's leading business organization, for restraint in the wake of the Recruit Co. scandal over alleged bribery of numerous politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen.

The money is spent not so much on closing deals as building close relationships.

For small companies, entertainment expenses can make up 20 per cent to 30 per cent of project costs, he said.

This kind of effort can hobble a foreign enterprise in Japan.

Robert J. Collins, President of the American Club in Japan cites golf as evidence.

He says a golf excursion with prestigious guests can easily run to half a million yen (\$3,500).

Laying on May include sending a limousine or even a helicopter for the guest and providing luxury accommodations by the green.

With long traffic jams snarling the highways out of Tokyo every weekend, "you go out there the night before, stay up late drinking, get up at dawn and go out in the rain and play all day long," Collins said.

Then you drive four hours back to Tokyo and never once has anyone said a word about business."

Collins said the object is to endure an ordeal together.

Afterwards, he said, "I can get the phone to company chairman and he'll come out of meeting to talk to his golfing buddy."

After-hours entertainment follows tedious predictable patter. Collins said: "Mutual appreciation over dinner, then some gossip.

Roh stress on Koreanisation of defence

SEOUL, Feb 7, (AP): President Roh Tae-Woo said today that South Korea must develop its own defence system to prepare for an eventual withdrawal of US troops from the country.

Roh called for accelerating the move to an indigenous defence force after receiving a briefing from the Defence Ministry on various security problems South Korea is expected to face in the coming decade.

"We must pursue the 'Koreanisation' of our defence. American troops are here only to help us. We must be prepared to defend our nation with our own blood and sweat," he said.

In a report to Roh, Defence Minister Lee Sang-Hoon said South Korea will have to increase its defence spending substantially in the coming years to prepare for an eventual US troop pullout.

The United States announced last week that it would close three of its five air bases in South Korea in a cost-saving measure. The decision will mean the withdrawal of 2,000 of the 43,000 US troops stationed in South Korea under a mutual defence treaty.

South Korean officials later indicated they expected to discuss the withdrawal of some 3,000 more US troops, all no-combatants, when US Defence

Secretary Dick Cheney visits Seoul from Feb 14-17.

Lee did not disclose the amount of defence spending South Korea envisions in the coming years, but said his military would earn more money for research and development to produce missiles, combat planes, submarines and other sophisticated weapons in the early 2000s.

South Korea, he said, spent only 1.5 percent of its defence budget on research and development in 1980, but the amount will be increased to 3 percent in 1996 and 7 percent in 2000.

South Korea depends almost entirely on the United States for its weapons systems, but the

country recently has made impressive progress in developing its own weapons, including new army tanks more suited to Korean terrain.

South Korean defence spending is fixed at 6 per cent of its gross national product, which expanded at an annual rate of 8 to 9 per cent during the past decade. Last year's Korean GNP was estimated at \$194 billion.

As a deterrent to what he called the growing North Korean military threat, the minister said South Korea needs to maintain close security relations with the United States and share more of the costs of keeping US troops here.

Adrift 10 days

Survivor

JAKARTA, Feb 7, (Reuter): A shipwrecked Indonesian seaman survived 10 days adrift on an oil drum by eating his clothes, the Kompas daily newspaper said today.

Tarodji, 22, and 15 other crew members clung to oil drums after their 125-tonne cargo ship, Galiga, capsized last month in a storm in the Timor Sea.

"I ate my clothes piece by piece because there was no more food," Tarodji was quoted as saying.

9 including film star arrested in Seoul

Drugs in sex orgies

SEOUL, Feb 7, (AP): Nine people including a department store president, a film star and a runner in the Miss Korea pageant, and Chon Se-Yong, 25, an award-winning film star currently appearing in the movie "It's Time to Go to Bed."

Also arrested were three television actresses, a woman identified as an agent for prostitutes, and two fashion models.

Prosecutor Choi Dong-Uk of the Seoul district prosecutor's office said the arrests confirmed "the drug problems is no longer just a problem of crime-ridden districts."

Chae said the arrests were the result of an investigation launched last December and were part of the country's overall effort to contain the spread of illegal drugs.

Sihanouk heads for his homeland

BANGKOK, Feb 7, (AP): Cambodia's exiled Prince, Norodom Sihanouk, arrived in Thailand today to prepare for his return to the part of his homeland seized by guerrillas fighting the government.

A Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sihanouk was driven directly to the seaside resort of Pattaya and did not speak with reporters waiting at the Bangkok airport.

A spokesman for the prince in Bangkok, Roland Eng, said Sihanouk was expected to spend about a week in Thailand before going to Singapore. He would then return and travel to an area of Cambodia recently captured by guerrillas fighting the Vietnamese-installed government, Eng said.

"For so happy," the 67-year-old Sihanouk said before leaving Beijing for Bangkok. "I have nostalgia for my country, my homeland and my people."

Before the end of the month and after a visit to Singapore, Sihanouk plans to go into Cambodia, but exactly where was being kept secret, Eng said. The prince has said his home will be "inside Cambodia near Thailand."

The prince, who is the head of a UN-recognised government fighting a rival Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh, said in Beijing that he was able to return because his army had recently enlarged the "liberated zone" of Cambodia.

He said he was ending his exile because of the growing trend in the West to recognise the government led by Hun Sen. "If I establish myself in Cambodia, they will hesitate before recognising Hun Sen," he said.

Sihanouk said he would concentrate on "social affairs" upon his return and would not cooperate with the radical Khmer Rouge group, which is militarily the strongest in the guerrilla alliance.

In recent months Western backers of the guerrillas have been increasingly uneasy about cooperation between fighters loyal to Sihanouk and the communist Khmer Rouge which killed hundreds of thousands of Cambodians when it ruled the country from 1975-78.

The battlefield successes of the Khmer Rouge since the avowed withdrawal of Vietnamese troops backing the government in late September have raised Western fears that the Khmer Rouge could come to power again.

In late January, the prince quit as president of the guerrilla coalition but said he would remain head of state, a title he held before being ousted in a 1970 coup. He said he would run for president if a political settlement were reached with Hun Sen and general elections held.

Sihanouk has given his support to a proposal for both the guerrillas and Hun Sen to cede power to a UN trusteeship that would administer the country until elections can be held.

Laying on May include sending a limousine or even a helicopter for the guest and providing luxury accommodations by the green.

With long traffic jams snarling the highways out of Tokyo every weekend, "you go out there the night before, stay up late drinking, get up at dawn and go out in the rain and play all day long," Collins said.

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Chinese party rules out opposition role

Strong signal to Moscow: non-reds may get posts

BEIJING, Feb 7, (Agencies): China's Communist Party will soon abandon its leading role nor tolerate any opposition, its Central Committee has declared, sending a strong signal to the Soviet Union where radical changes are under debate.

A lengthy party document underlying communist determination to maintain absolute authority while giving some non-communist higher government posts was released by the official New China News Agency today.

The document was issued internally on Dec 30, the agency said.

The timing of its public release reflected the leadership's growing

concern about reforms sweeping Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, Western diplomats said.

"Political organisations which oppose the four cardinal principles and one-party state power are absolutely not allowed to exist. Such organisations must be banned according to law as soon as they are discovered," the party document said.

The 'four cardinal principles' are the leading role of the party, dictatorship of the proletariat, adherence to socialism, and Marxism-Leninism and Mao Tse-tung thought.



Memorial service

Ethnic Albanian children flash the victory sign as they attend a memorial ceremony for Mehmet Ejupi, a 22-year-old Albanian who was shot dead by the Yugoslav army.

Yugoslav army. More than 10,000 ethnic Albanians gathered in Podujevo's cemetery Feb 6. (Reuter wirephoto)

Kosovo issue debated

Drunken policeman shoots two youths

BELGRADE, Feb 7, (Reuter):

Yugoslavia's federal Parliament takes up the Kosovo crisis today in a debate certain to highlight regional feuds threatening to tear the country apart.

President Janez Drnovsek will open the emergency debate with a report on an 11-day rampage by ethnic Albanians, mostly Muslims, in which 29 people were killed and 176 injured.

The Kosovo crisis has brought to the surface deep-seated animosities among Yugoslavia's eight republics and provinces — divided over language, religion and ethnic roots.

The eight-member rotating presidency, held by the Republic of Slovenia, has called the Kosovo riots a direct threat to the country's integrity and advocated moderation.

Drnovsek is expected to press home this theme, putting him and some other members of the presidency, on a collision course with Serbia, the biggest republic which is determined to crush demands for more autonomy by ethnic Albanians.

Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic rejected any compromise on the Kosovo issue on Monday and blasted the collective presidency for tardy action to stop the violence.

Most members of the presidency, which takes

decisions by majority vote, were reluctant to impose a solution by force.

Federal riot police, troops and tanks were sent in to restore order and the rioting subsided over the weekend.

The split between those, such as Serbia, which want a hardline central government to stand up to the people, and those pushing for political compromise such as Slovenia, is certain to spark heated debate today.

A drunken Yugoslav policeman went on a shooting spree with his rifle in riot-torn Kosovo province, wounding two teenagers and killing a cow, a local official said today.

After drinking in the village of Janjevo last night, the policeman argued with teen-age boys from the province's majority Albanian community.

He suddenly opened fire, wounding the teenagers in the legs, village official Josip Dodic told reporters. The boys were rushed to hospital and the policeman was arrested.

Earlier he had blazed away at a village wall, shot dead a cow and threatened a pregnant Albanian woman at gunpoint, Dodic said.

Slovenia, which broke with Yugoslavia's central Communist Party on Sunday, went so far as to recall its 2,000 policemen serving with the federal force keeping order in Kosovo.

The southern province has for decades been plagued by tensions between its 1.7 million ethnic Albanians and about 200,000 mainly orthodox Christian Serbs and Montenegrins.

Despite the shift in population in favour of the Albanians, Serbia is determined to keep its grip on the province which it sees as the birthplace of Serbian statehood in the Middle Ages.

Kosovo's Albanians, many of whom feel kinship with the people of neighbouring hardline communist Albania, have called for the resignation of the provincial government, free elections and release of political prisoners.

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Ilieșcu to run for Romanian President

BUCHAREST, Feb 7, (AP): Interim President Ion Ilieșcu yesterday registered the National Salvation Front to run in the May election, and a top aide said he will be his candidate for president.

The Front, which has ruled by decree since communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was toppled in December, will compete in the election against 29 political parties.

The Front's decision to enter the elections contradicted an earlier pledge not to contest them. The decision sparked wide protests when it was announced in late January.

Romania kids hit badly by Aids

BUCHAREST, Feb 7, (AP): Romania is in the throes of the first known epidemic of childhood Aids caused by contaminated blood and the constant reuse of needles, a French humanitarian organisation said.

Dr Jacques Lebas, president of the Paris-based Doctors of the World, urged the international health community to provide Romania with disposable needles and blood-screening equipment to try to stop the epidemic.

"We know Aids from people who take drugs, homosexuals, and heterosexuals in Africa, but for the first time in the history of Aids, we are confronted with childhood Aids," he said.

"It's an epidemic," he said. "It's on the level of famine. It's an international emergency."

The Romanian outbreak is unique because it does not involve the transmission of the virus from mother to child, as happens elsewhere in the world, but from contaminated blood transfusions and needles, he said.

"In the adult population, the incidence of Aids is very low," Lebas said. "More than 98 per cent of mothers of infected children are free of infection."

The problem of childhood Aids is compounded by the widespread use of tiny blood transfusions (10 to 20 cubic cms) as a treatment for premature babies, sick children and the thousands of youngsters suffering from malnutrition, he said.

Aids in Romania was virtually unknown under communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who was toppled in December, because he considered it "a state secret," Lebas said.

Last month, Dr Ludovic Pann of the infectious diseases departmental Bucharest's Victor Babes hospital said 69 people had developed Aids since 1985, including 33 young children.

He said 33 of the 45 Aids fatalities so far have been children 3 or younger.

"Small children are prone to get full-blown Aids and Aids-related diseases because they have an immature (immune) system. The average survival of these children with HIV is probably two years," he said.

Lebas had no updated statistics on Aids deaths. But he said an initial screening of 1,025 children up to 3 years old in hospitals and orphanages found 367 with the human immunodeficiency virus known as HIV that causes Aids.

Dr Ion Patrascu, a researcher at the institute of virology, said 60 per cent of the 283 children with HIV who are hospitalised have full-blown Aids. The children in orphanages who tested positive will be checked this week to see whether they have the disease, he said.

The children tested were from Bucharest, Arad in western Romania, Focșani in the northeast and the southern Black Sea port city of Constanța, where the incidence was very high. Patrascu said tests would be carried out at hospitals and orphanages in Timișoara and other cities this week.

"This outbreak is unusual in the world," Patrascu said. "We need specialists to come here from the United States, France, Britain, and other countries to decide what to do."

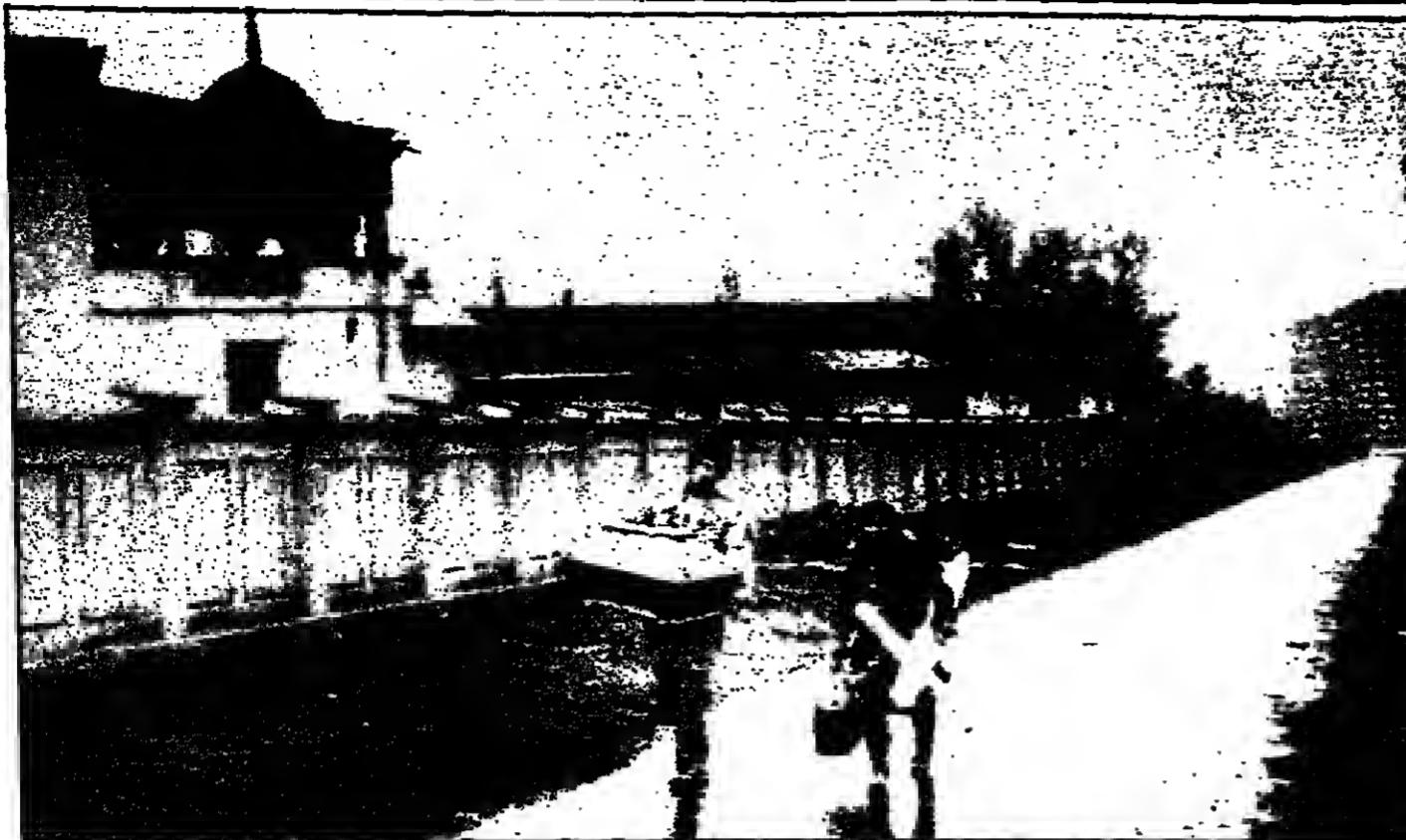
Doctors of the world signed a contract with the Romanian government on Monday to set up a laboratory in Bucharest to test for pediatric Aids, he said.

But Romania has no money to carry out a proper epidemiological study to determine the real number of Aids cases in the general population, Patrascu said.

"We hope when the general population is tested, we don't have this result," Lebas said.

He said he secretly took blood samples last July to test for the Aids virus in children and wasn't able to confirm his results until after the revolution, when the French organisation took 29 samples to Paris.

A team of experts from the World Health Organisation (WHO) has been sent to Romania to assess Aids epidemic among children, a WHO spokesman said yesterday in Geneva.



Burying the Aids dead baby

Romanian parents carry a small casket and cross as they arrive at a Bucharest hospital to collect the body of their dead baby who died of Aids. Hundreds of infants lay dying in Romanian hospitals from Aids.

symptoms, a fact that up until the revolution was kept secret by the Ceausescu regime. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe

Brain sent to research institute: The brain of the late human rights activist and Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov has been sent to a research institute that studied the brain of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, the Tass news agency said Wednesday.

Sakharov, the father of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, was eulogised as the conscience of the country when he died in December. He won the Nobel peace prize in 1975 for his human rights activities in the Soviet Union.

His brain was sent to the Academy of Science Brain Institute, which was founded as a laboratory to study the brain of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin in 1926, two years after Lenin's death, Tass said, quoting the labour newspaper Trud.

Results of the research on the brains of Lenin and Stalin are secret, said institute director Oleg Adrianov. He said he has suggested to higher authorities that the research be made public.

"No brain of any political figure was sent to the institute after the Stalin days," Adrianov said. (AP)

Scientists petition Thatcher: British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was yesterday presented with a petition signed by 1,600 brain-dead scientists protesting about the "starvation" in Britain today.

The scientists, including 24 fellows of the academic Royal Society and hundreds of other researchers with at least a PhD, left the UK several years ago. The majority are now in senior positions abroad, mainly in the US.

The petition expressed concern that British scientific research is being "starved" of funds and said the lack of jobs and career prospects are "major obstacles in our considering returning to the UK."

It urged increased British government support for science. (Kuna)

Court rejects release of deputy: A Greek appeals court rejected on Wednesday a request for the temporary release of a former Muslim deputy, raising fears of fresh clashes between Greek Christians and Muslims in the northern town of Komotini.

Ahmet Sadik, who was elected the first independent Muslim deputy in Parliament last June, was sentenced on Jan 26 to 18 months in jail for disturbing the peace and inciting discord.

He was also barred from politics for three years.

Sadik's defence attorney asked the appeals court to release his client so he could support his family. (Reuter)

Storms battered Britain: Britain was Wednesday being battered by storms comparable to those last month in which 46 people died, weathermen said.

The winds reached south west England during the night, with gusts to 60 miles per hour, and were sweeping up the south coast early Wednesday.

London Weather Centre said the gales would reach their peak in the south-east including the British capital later. (Kuna)

IRA bombs aircraft factory: The IRA bombed the Belfast factory of aircraft manufacturers Shorts on Wednesday and threatened to kill all workers involved in military contracts.

A bomb exploded in a hanger where the company builds the Tucano training aircraft for Britain's Royal Air Force. No one was hurt and police said damage was minimal. (Reuter)

Police rescue Colombian women: Thai police have rescued a group of Colombian women who were forced into prostitution by Thai racketeers in league with a Colombian couple, police said yesterday.

Police rescue Colombian women: Thai police have rescued a group of Colombian women who were forced into prostitution by Thai racketeers in league with a Colombian couple, police said yesterday.

Police arrested Marco Fidel Rivera: His wife, Elizabeth Galindo, 33, and two Thai men in Tuesday's raid on a house in Yannawa in central Bangkok. All four were charged with arranging prostitution and detaining people against their will.

The 16 women, aged 20 to 25, were sent to have sex with clients at hotels in Bangkok and given almost nothing in return except food and lodgings. Police said some were beaten when they refused to comply. (Reuter)

Rebel attack on relief trucks: Rebels attacked a truck belonging to the government relief agency, killing the driver and 11 people riding in the back, a state-run newspaper reported yesterday.

Noticias: Mozambique's largest newspaper, said 18 people were injured in the attack on Sunday in the central province of Sofala. (AP)

Sofia cuts size of secret police, radical reforms under way: minister

SOFIA: The ranks of the secret police have been reduced 80 per cent, opposition activists telephones are no longer illegally tapped, and other radical reforms of the security services are under way, the interior minister said yesterday.

The minister, Gen. Atanas Semerdjiev, spent five hours condemning abuses of the past and promising his ministry will become "a guardian of society" at the talks bringing together communist authorities and the opposition, the state news agency BTA reported.

He commented four days after the end of a Communist Party congress that attempted to bridge differences between Marxist reformers committed to democracy and conservatives seeking to

preserve communist dominance of society.

However, Semerdjiev, citing unspecified constitutional prohibitions, rejected opposition demands for access to the files of the secret police and a public inquiry into the activities of the state security, BTA said.

He commented four days after the end of a Communist Party congress that attempted to bridge differences between Marxist reformers committed to democracy and conservatives seeking to

in its platform, released yesterday, the Front said its aim is "realisation in Romania of a democratic society based on political pluralism, the separation of powers in the state, (and) the assurance of liberty and human dignity."

The tourism minister became the fourth member of the ruling council to resign today, accusing the National Salvation Front of "dictatorial methods" reminiscent of the previous communist regime.

As an army officer, the resigning minister, Mihai Lupoi, played a key role in the Dec 22 revolution.

Soviets blow up Czech dump

PRAGUE, Feb 7, (Reuter): A powerful explosion ripped through a Soviet military area in southeast Czechoslovakia yesterday and Prague's Defence Ministry said Soviet troops had blown up an ammunition dump in violation of regulations.

"The explosion was a result of a breach of all possible regulations," a Prague Defence Ministry spokesman said after the blast was reported by Czechoslovak radio.

"A powerful explosion in the Soviet military area of Libava in southeast Czechoslovakia occurred last night, sending a mushroom-shaped orange cloud into the sky and sparking a forest fire," the radio said. Fire-fighters were rushed to the site but could not gain access, it said.

Forests were set ablaze by the explosion, which the Defence Ministry spokesman said was caused by blowing up a dump full of artillery shells, anti-tank grenades, gunpowder and TNT explosive.

"According to eyewitnesses the cloud formed a mushroom shape from which ash began to fall on the surrounding area and village," the radio said.

The ministry spokesman said nobody was hurt in the blast but windows were smashed and buildings were damaged in the nearby village Stare Oldruvki, nine km (five miles) away.

He said the Soviet Army had agreed to pay for the damage.

Civil defence experts who visited the scene later had found no evidence of radioactive debris.

The latest incident is likely to intensify calls in Czechoslovakia for the withdrawal of the 75,000 Soviet troops stationed in the country since a Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion crushed the 1968 "Prague Spring" reform movement.

Protest

Czechoslovak citizens have been demonstrating recently against their presence and 30,000 people massed in Prague yesterday in the latest protest shouting "Ivan, go home!"

Moscow and Prague are negotiating a Soviet troop withdrawal. The second round of talks began in Moscow yesterday.

The anti-Soviet demonstrations were criticised by a senior Soviet official in Moscow today, Czechoslovakia's official news agency CTK reported.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Ablov, who heads the Soviet delegation at the talks, expressed his "sincere wonder" at the demonstration in Prague and other Czechoslovak towns.

He told CTK he was surprised at such emotional outburst "at a time when these very important talks have been opened."

The fact the Soviet government agreed to hold the talks at all showed its willingness to withdraw the troops, he said.

There were also technical difficulties, he added, but the key problem was the timetable for the withdrawal.

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel told East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow yesterday that he was worried by right-wing extremism in East and West Germany.

The two reformist leaders, meeting after separate talks between Havel and James Baker, agreed that a second Conference on European Security and Cooperation (CSCE) was urgently needed to discuss German unification, Modrow told reporters.



Baker lays a wreath at Vencesla's Square in Prague. (Reuter wirephoto)

Baker warns East Europe

'No backsiding'

PRAGUE, Feb 7, (Reuter): US Secretary of State James Baker warned European nations today that Washington would cut off economic aid if they strayed from the path towards democracy.

In a speech at Prague's 12th-century Charles University, Baker referred specifically to East Germany and Romania where, he said, re-ward, anti-democratic actions had undermined the legitimacy of their governments.

"We are troubled by indications that some of the governments in the region have engaged in practices that would obstruct truly free and fair elections," Baker said.

Baker suggested establishing an international observer team on behalf of the 35 signatories of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to oversee the coming elections in Eastern Europe this year.

He said elections should be internationally recognised as a basic human right.

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel yesterday proposed that both superpowers withdraw all their troops from Europe.

Baker in Moscow: Baker arrived in Moscow at a historic moment just hours after the Soviet Communists Party decided to drop its monopoly of power, fulfilling an American dream.

Unification support SPD set to sweep

EAST BERLIN, Feb 7, (Reuter): A new opinion poll shows that East Germans' revived Social Democrats (SPD) are set to run away with the nation's first free elections, a race increasingly dominated by West German political parties.

The poll also showed a massive increase in support for German unification. It said 76 per cent of East Germans backed it compared with 48 per cent in November.

The survey said the SPD, heavily backed by the Social Democrats in the West, would win 54 per cent of the vote if an election was held now.

That put them way ahead of both the widely discredited but still-governing communists and also the pro-democracy movements which powered East Germany's peaceful revolution last autumn.

"There is too much interference in the election campaign by Western parties," said Gerd Poppe of the initiative for peace and human rights, echoing the views of many East Germans who feel denied a full chance to build their own democracy.

Poppe's group, the umbrella organisation New Forum, and the smaller Democracy Now announced today they would fight the March 18 election on a single centre-left slate, although they had not yet decided whether to field joint candidates.

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Subiya project postponed

New Khiran town to be started in 1992

By Jamal Ameen

WORK on the construction of the new Khiran town will reportedly start in 1992 and the final study prepared on this project has been completed, Al Seyassah quoted a reliable source yesterday.

The paper said that the town, once constructed, would take up to 290,000 people

till the year 2005, adding that it would include 15 residential areas, two industrial spots, a downtown centre, communal facilities, educational, health, sports, municipal and related public services.

On the other hand, the paper pointed out, the construction of the Subiya town project had been postponed and the project study would be reconsidered to

establish the primary priorities needed for construction. **Update**

The paper also said that the Kuwait Masterplan's third update would be completed within 17 months, adding that work on it started a month ago.

The paper said that the update would provide for the construction of new

residential areas, educational, environmental, and service facilities.

The paper also revealed that a new project is currently under consideration for re-housing 20,000 Kuwaiti citizens inside Kuwait City within the next five years, and that 3,000 housing units had so far been expropriated inside the city for this purpose.

Five-day working week kept on hold

THE undersecretary of Civil Services Commission Abdul Aziz Al Zaben has said that CSC had made several studies to determine the feasibility of a five-day working week and submitted a report to the relevant authorities which has been kept on hold.

Commenting on administrative staff of health centres working during Eid holidays without any allowance, Zaben said that according to the law of Civil Service administrative staff and technicians in government sector who do not get allowance of work nature or night shift, can be asked to work for two more hours on Thursdays or other days of the week if there is a necessity. But employees who work for more than two additional hours can enjoy a day as holiday in lieu of payment. But if they do not get this holiday they have the right to be paid, he said.

Zaben pointed out that a Kuwaiti female employee has the right to get children allowance for every child she has in case of death of their father or if he is disabled provided he does not get any compensation from the state or any regular financial support.

Centenarian in Bahrain still drives

The Bahraini Traffic and Licences Department honoured a Bahraini citizen who turned 100 years of age and is still driving his vehicle completely with traffic rules and systems.

The citizen, Saeed Al Noubi was honoured for his life long adherence to using the safety belt which the Bahraini Traffic Department is seeking to make mandatory.

Noubi stated that he is still a skilful driver and that he has been driving for more than 60 years.

He has driven different makes of vehicles in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

He stresses the importance of using the safety belt while driving adding that in the past drivers used safety belts. He said the use of safety belts usage is now imperative in today's chaotic traffic conditions.

Imprisonment, deportation for juveniles

THE Juvenile Court sentenced two youths to a year's rigorous imprisonment each to be followed by deportation on being convicted of theft.

The court was told that the two youths broke into the house of their neighbour and stole gold ornaments and other valuables. However, during the break-in, one of the accused cut himself and bled leaving traces of blood. Diligent investigations led police to connect the blood samples with the culprit.

A search of their residence resulted in recovering the stolen items.

The Criminal Court sentenced three persons in 42 months rigorous imprisonment on charges of manufacturing and selling liquor.

A raid by police on the residence of the accused netted a large quantity of alcohol and distilling equipment.

The court acquitted a 75-year-old man accused of sexually molesting two young girls due to lack of evidence.

The court was told that one of the girls aged 7 years told the police that while passing in front of Kuwait Souq at Safat Square, the defendant called them to the shop and sexually assaulted them.

Correspondents

KUWAIT, Feb 7 (Kuna): Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah separately received at his office today the Lebanese daily Al Lewaa correspondent Moustafa Al Madani Al Daffar, the Middle East Editor of the London Daily Independent John Cook and the Wall Street Journal correspondent in the Middle East Gert Koenig.



Lady Craig visits kids at Amiri

Lady Craig, wife of the British army chief of staff, visited the pediatric wards of Amiri Hospital yesterday to view the first play programme organised by the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in hospital. She was accompanied by Mrs Hinchcliffe, wife of the British ambassador to Kuwait. Visitors were given a guided tour by Margaret Al Sayer, head of the association, who explained the various activities undertaken by the association to reduce

the anxiety felt by hospitalised children by transforming the often frightening hospital surroundings into a friendly welcoming environment.

Lady Craig was impressed with the volunteer work that provides comfort to those children through supervised games, painting and music. The association is celebrating its first birthday next month.

Need to consolidate afforestation: Sabah

3,000 hectares stay bare

THE deputy director-general for landscaping at the Agriculture and Fish Resources Authority and coordinator general of the Kuwait National Afforestation and Greening Project Sheikh Azbi Salem Al Ali Al Sabah has said that the interim plan's objectives focused on the consolidation and pushing forward of ongoing afforestation and greening efforts in the country, both at the public and private levels.

He told a local daily in the course of a press interview that an ad-hoc ministerial committee on National Afforestation and Landscaping was formed in October 1986 under the chairmanship of the minister of planning, which contained on its membership the ministers of public works, electricity and water, and minister of state for municipal affairs.

He added that the committee submitted a report to HH the Amir which was later followed by the cabinet decision No. 6 on Jan 4, 1987 approving the national plan for landscape uses and the formation of a higher planning for greening and landscaping the State of Kuwait under the chairmanship of the minister of public works with representatives from the relevant agencies on its membership.

In the light of this, the higher committee had formed sub-committees and work teams to prepare technical reports on all related aspects of the plan, which involved the assessment of existing natural resources, evaluation of existing greening efforts and needed services as well as the necessary support programmes.

He added that the reports also covered a list of the projects that could be implemented within the following two years, 88/89 and 89/90, submit proposals on the regulation of work progress in projects to be implemented within the framework of the interim plan for 1988/1990 and establishing the related work priorities.

Water

He said the reports submitted by the sub-committees on the assessment of natural resources revealed that the interim works would require 4.6 million gallons of brackish underground water per day, 22.65 million gallons of treated effluent daily, 37.5 million gallons of industrial effluent per day, 20.5 million gallons of desalinated water daily.

He said that all this water is valid for agricultural purposes except industrial and waste water which need special processing to refine its quality, adding that desalinated water would be possible to use on afforestation projects (salinity not exceeding 6000mg/litre).

He said that all available water supplies, except underground water, were unusable for afforestation and agricultural projects in the designated sites, the reason being the absence of a transmission water network to carry the water supply from the production

sites to work locations.

He added that the land had been divided into two main classifications, those lying inside Kuwait City and suburbs, and those located outside the planned areas, which cross the country up to the borders.

He said that initial land surveys revealed that 17,000 hectares of desert land was arable, while 3,194 hectares were designated inside the Kuwait City and suburbs, excluding the afforestation areas totalling 10,000 hectares.

Sabah added that the landscape initial assessment revealed that 83 per cent of the spaces designated for the construction of gardens, parks, streets, interchanges, motorways, public and landscaping.

He also said that the existing number of gardens totalled 101 with a sum space of 164 hectares, adding that 140 streets had already been landscaped with a total length of 256km. 74km of six main roads were landscaped too, while 3,000 hectares remained below the required standard and had not been adequately maintained.

He stressed the need for urgent maintenance service for vegetated areas to stop the ongoing disintegration process resulting from lack of maintenance and erroneous grazing patterns.

He said that the maintenance of landscaped areas was confined to public gardens, landscaping motorways and streets, besides the implementation of afforestation areas via specialised companies under the supervision of the authority and the public works ministry.

He pointed out the annual cost per square metre varied between KD2 to 4.5 adding that the authority provided maintenance services for landscaped areas particularly afforestation works; however the existing landscaped works suffered from the absence of the 'evergreen look' which was the result of deficiency in details on the exact water requirements for these areas.

Sabah added that this led in certain areas to over-irrigation and the results were negative and revealing of the need of profound studies to be able to accurately estimate the required water supply quantities.

Animal wealth

Meanwhile, the director of Animal Health Department at the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Wealth, Dr Sultan Ahmed, has said that there are positive indications for the development of agricultural sector in general and animal production in particular. He added that the authority is carrying out scientific programmes to increase the percentage of self-sufficiency in animal production.

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Vehicle fee to stay

THE director of the Public Utilities Management Company (PUMC) Abdul Rahman Al Qaani has denied rumours about PUMC's intention to reduce the vehicle admission fee into the second-hand car market.

He told a local daily that the fee had been fixed based on a study, and ruled out any intention by the company to reconsider this fee at present.

He said that new services would be introduced into the market in April, which would include offices for insurance companies, traffic department, a technical auto-testing office which would enable buyers to have cars tested before buying.

He said that the reason for failure to relocate the existing market site to south Aridiya was problems with the Department of Government Domains.

THE DAHAR Housing Project is one of the most prominent projects undertaken by the National Housing Authority in relation to methodology, Jasem Al Khalifi, chief engineer of the Dahar Housing Area said.

He told a local daily that quite a few applicants who had had housing units designated for them in other projects had expressed their desire to get housing units on the Dahar project.

Techniques

He said that the scientific studies conducted by the technical committee on the land depression incidents occurring in the area revealed that the reason was closely connected to the geological structure of the land in the area. The results of these studies would soon be announced following completion of these studies, which were assigned to a technical committee led by Dr Ibrahim Al Refai.

Soviet threat reduced

US to draw up new area plans

WASHINGTON, Feb 7. (Agencies)

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has instructed US military leaders to draw up new war plans for both the Gulf and Southeast Asia in the light of a much reduced Soviet threat, published reports said today.

The Washington Post and the New York Times said military leaders had been told to scrub plans for defending Iran in the event of a Soviet drive towards Gulf oilfields.

They had also been told to cater for the possibility that the United States would have to use up two major bases in the Philippines.

The instructions were contained in a classified document, signed by Cheney, intended as the foundation for US military planning for 1992 to 1997.

The document formalises Washington's assessment of a dramatically reduced threat from Soviet and other Warsaw Pact forces in Europe, the paper

said, citing a senior defence department official.

The guidelines said the new military focus in the Gulf should be securing oil supplies by defending Saudi Arabia and the sheikdoms on the Arabian Peninsula against regional threats that might be assisted by Moscow.

The goal of defending Iran in the event of Soviet attack was the focus of intense US military planning after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979.

Operation

Central Command, based in Tampa, Florida, was established to handle the planning and to direct any military operations in the Gulf area. This command handles the navy patrols of the Gulf and escorts of Kuwaiti tankers under the US flag in 1987 against Iranian attacks, activity drastically curtailed after the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

The guidelines quote a senior defence official as saying Iran's intensely anti-American rulers had made it unrealistic to assume US forces would deploy there.

The official said Pentagon experts had concluded the threat of a Soviet drive to the Gulf oilfields was "not credible." The Times reported.

Document

According to The Post, the United States would still consider the contingency of the Soviet attack on Iran but no longer make the "large investments to support forces in Iran."

According to both news papers, the guidance document instructs planners to assume a successful negotiation on conventional forces in Europe will cut Soviet forces there.

Both said the services were told to plan to defend the oilfields of the Arabian Peninsula against attacks by unspecified adversaries.



This computer (above) can translate data to Braille which helps the blind read.

Advanced education programme for blind

8 million Arabs sightless

IN an initiative which is billed as the first of its kind, the Middle East Regional Bureau for the Blind based at Riyadh, in Saudi Arabia is currently preparing an advanced programme for the education of the blind.

A local daily quoted Nazeh Al Qadhamani, director of the computer department at the centre as stating that the new programme intends to use computer system in imparting education to the blind.

Methods

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics, Qadhamani said that about one to two per cent of the Arab countries population are blind which translates into a figure of eight million.

The official who is also the executive advisor of the International Group for Programmes, Consultations and Training said that according to statistics issued by the UN Economic and Social Committee for Western Asia (ESCWA), only 3 per cent of the Arab blind are educated and received vocational training. Consequently, the bureau has decided to expand training courses for the benefit of the majority of the Arab blind, the official commented.

He said that provision of educational methods and the latest technology required for technical

training and prequalification is a prerequisite if the issue is to be successfully addressed. He added that during the recent era, the computer technology proved the most viable for alleviating administrative and technical works.

He said that the proposed system will be based on inserting necessary data into the computer which will automatically translate such data and transfer it into files based on the Braille methodology. These files can be retrieved by having them printed as Braille.

However, he said that considerable time, effort and expertise will have to be expended before the system can be debugged and enter into the mainstream of activity for the blind.

He clarified that to facilitate the task new research units are being built at the computer centre in order to develop the Braille method. He said that experiments have demonstrated that obtaining technology without tailoring it to the necessary training of the blind will be exercised in futility.

Meanwhile, the official called for providing necessary job opportunities to the handicapped. Computer technology is capable of qualifying a great number of handicapped and provide them the ideal vehicle for opening up vast vistas of gainful and well-meaning employment.

Dahar Housing Project

2,000 flawed homes set straight: Khalifi

THE NHA employed advanced techniques in the construction of the Dahar housing project using high quality designs and making use of past experience on earlier projects, Khalifi said.

He pointed out that thermal insulation was used in walls and different colours given to housing units to mark out each unit, besides providing external cladding to these units.

Hessid said that the area contained 2541 houses which had already been distributed and occupied by citizens, adding that 134 houses had been evacuated to take the necessary security and safety precautions against the geological phenomenon, which was discovered in area 1.

The NHA continued to sort out existing flaws in the construction of certain houses which had not as yet been distributed, adding that contractors are to blame for these technical flaws for failing to abide by the stipula-

tions and specifications.

Of a total of 2541 houses 2,000 had already had their flaws sorted out, and work in this direction remained in progress.

He said that 267 houses of the 2541 had not as yet been distributed and were withdrawn from the main contractors after they failed to fulfil their contractual obligations.

He pointed out that the Dahar area had been accorded top priority attention by the NHA and commissioned special landscaping of its interior and exterior streets. He called on citizens

Increase in poison cases among children

Parental supervision urged

THERE has been an alarming increase in the number of poisoning cases among children in Kuwait. Dr Abdulla Asad, director of pharmacological services department at the Ministry of Public Health said.

A study of poisoning cases between the years 1984 and 1987 indicated that children under five years of age accounted for

58 percent of these cases. However, he said that these cases do not include those that were treated by health centres or at emergency clinics or hospitals.

He attributed these cases generally to taking medicines or chemicals by mistake and called for stricter supervision by parents and relatives over these items.

The study showed that 67.9 per cent of these cases among adults were females. The highest number of poisoning were reported in Jabra Health Area at 109 per 100,000 people with the lowest in Hawalli Health Area with 46 per 100,000. The study said that most cases were reported in February and September and the lowest

was reported in January and August. The study recommended continued efforts to complete the application of a plan to establish a programme to develop work at the toxicity data centre. It also recommended that medicine bottles and other forms of packing be made tamper proof as far as children are concerned.

Amir raps US, Soviets on Jewish influx

(Continued from Page 1)

the soul of his homeland and that of his forefathers."

"And that's how human rights for them became bright slogans but seeking futile goals. There is no sin more evident than this settling occupation which is trying to evacuate a whole nation from its land and offer it for tongue-and-land-strangers."

Referring to the US and Soviet Union, the Amir said: "We hope that those who created Soviet Jews emigration and those who assisted in directing it toward Palestine reconsider their decision in light of the Arab right."

Speaking on regional disputes, the Amir said: "We are looking forward for the nearby tomorrow when articles of (UN) Security Council resolution 338 are fully implemented by neighbouring Iran and Iraq, the Lebanese legitimacy is stabilised and the people of Afghanistan meet under a peace based on faith and co-operation."

The Muslim world, he added, is facing various political and economic systems which must be acknowledged and exploited to ensure peace and bolster principles of good neighbourliness.

Maintaining bridges among Muslims is a necessity," said the Amir in what appears to be a determination to continue efforts seeking normalisation of relations among disputing parties in the Muslim world.

On another issue, the Amir urged the OIC to strengthen contacts with Muslim minorities in the world in order to maintain Islamic traditions among Muslims in non-Islamic countries."

"OIC has a responsibility to strengthen lines of contacts with Muslim communities, dispersed in the world, to continue living on teachings of Islamic faith, peaceful co-existence with others and participation in building life," the Amir stated.

He also called upon Muslim states to review current education and information programmes and present them in a manner which underlines Islamic teachings emphasising brotherhood and love.

OIC should also shoulder the responsibility for presenting Islamic principles to the outside world to eliminate stereotyped images engraved in the minds of non-Muslims about Islam, the Amir asserted.

"We, as Muslims, are obliged to co-operate to present Islam internationally in an objective and correct manner, lending off suspensions in a world reflecting pluralism and co-existence," the Amir concluded.

The Kuwait mission at the United Nations asked Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today to circulate the Amir's important message to the OIC as an official document of the General Assembly.

The Saudi monarch, in a speech read on his behalf by Defence Minister Prince Sultan, said the OIC "crystallised the call for Islamic solidarity and defence of Muslim rights and interests."

More freedom for Soviet Muslims urged

NICOSIA, Feb 7, (Reuters): A Saudi Arabian newspaper today urged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to grant Soviet Muslims the same freedom it said he gave to Soviet Jews.

"Freedom should not be confined to specific communities or ethnic groups while Muslims are deprived of freedom of belief or self-independence at a time Soviet Jews get everything free," Al Riyad said in an editorial.

"While assuming the restructuring role Gorbachev should make sure that Muslims enjoy freedom of belief and local administration guaranteed by the future constitution of other republics," the paper said.

"While the Muslim world is still watching the Azerbaijan events without reacting hastily, it hopes the situation will be made good through a courageous initiative by Gorbachev himself," the paper added.



Rashed receives Rockefeller, Peterson

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed yesterday received Board Chairman of the American Chase Manhattan Bank David Rockefeller and the head of the US Congress Foreign Relations Committee Peter Peterson and a number of the committee members.

Savings and Credit Bank

Loan deductions to be postponed for 3 years

APPROXIMATELY 5,000 Kuwaiti families indebted to the Savings and Credit Bank will benefit from a decision taken by the bank to postpone their monthly deductions for a period of three years.

Divulging this information, Hamad Al Nikaialan, assistant director-general of the bank said that the bank will stop deducting the monthly installments of loans effective end of April this year. He stressed that there is no need for debtors to visit the bank in this respect. This facility will also be extended to those who obtained loans to build their houses.

Presently, he explained that the bank grants a KD1,000 loan and another KD1,000 as donation to citizens for marriages according to the instructions of HH the Amir. The bank is preparing a memorandum in this respect which will be forwarded to the Amir.

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He added that the bank will reduce the monthly instalments against loans extended to main-

tain and expand homes. Debtors earning less than KD600 a month will pay KD40 per month and those over KD600 will pay KD10.

Also the monthly instalments of those who get loans for building houses will be reduced to KD65 for those with incomes of less than KD600 and KD85 for those above this figure.

The bank grants about 250 loans a month — 200 are for government land allotments and 50 others for private land allotments or to those who want to purchase houses. The banks till date has financed about 3,500 government land allotments and there are plans to finance 7,000 land allotments, Nikaialan said.

The decision has been taken to help debtors who presently find it

difficult to meet their instalment commitments.

The official also disclosed that the bank is undertaking a study to reconsider the social loans given to citizens (for marriages) according to the instructions of HH the Amir. The bank is preparing a memorandum in this respect which will be forwarded to the Amir.

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BAHRAN DIGEST

Children's welfare conference opens

BAHRAN places strong importance on its endeavour to ensure child welfare so as to have a nation of healthy and educated children necessary for a prosperous future, according to the island's health minister, Jawad Al Ayyadi.

Addressing the opening day of a major United Nations Childrens Fund (Unicef) conference at the Gulf Hotel, Arayed underlined the need to foster child welfare covering health, education and social fields towards the next century by calling for long-term plans that would sustain child welfare gains as well as improve existing facilities. In this context he said that Bahrain is committed with the rest of the world to ensure the growth and development of child care through a series of well planned programmes and strategies in the coming years.

The health minister said that Bahrain is a pioneer in implementing primary health care in the region thanks to the government's early realisation of the need to promote the cause of children in every aspect in the community. Health education programmes with a curriculum designed on present needs have also helped to accelerate the government's child welfare goals, he added.

The minister praised the role of Unicef in the field of child care through its dedicated team of officials everywhere.

Focus

Sabah Al Alawi, Gulf area representative of Unicef based in Riyadh, described Bahrain as the focal point of international attention with regard to the welfare of children. He said that the island is a source of inspiration in view of its pioneering efforts and the impressive performance in reducing infant mortality, child immunisation and the overall social and economic development.

Richard Reid, Chief of Unicef in the region, highlighted the achievement in the cause of child welfare in the world. According to him child immunisation in the developing world has improved from about 10 per cent a decade back to about 70 per cent today. This effort he added is saving about 2 million children every year.

The regional Unicef chief also praised Bahrain's achievement in reducing infant mortality rate to half of what it was in 1980. Child mortality rate in the island is among the lowest in the world, with about 20 deaths per 1,000 live births compared with the world average of 65-75 for developing countries.

Double support for PLO: Gabid

JEDDAH, Feb 7, (Kuna): Citing Israel's refusal to the policy of moderation and concessions by the PLO, the Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Hamed Al Gabid said, in an address at the ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of the OIC that the Islamic world has no choice but to double its support to the just struggle of the Palestinian people.

He pointed out that the OIC supports the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East peace with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and the concerned parties including the PLO.

On the situation in Afghanistan, Gabid urged the OIC member states and the international community to continue backing the Afghan people until they take control of their country.

He also appealed to the Afghan mujahideen to close ranks so they can achieve their goal, noting that divisions will lead to nowhere.

Gabid expressed fear of the slow pace of negotiations between Iraq and Iran despite the continuous efforts by the UN Secretary-General Javier Peres de Cuellar in this regard.

Saadoun described it as a friendly, frank meeting. "We did not get into details, that will be discussed at the next meeting," he said.

Computer hazards are costing billions of dollars a year to unprepared organisation in Europe and America. There are no available statistics in the Gulf region because ironically in majority of cases victim organisations of computer crimes or hazards are hesitant to report such incidence for fear of adverse publicity. The value of the seminar in preparing computer user organisations in the Gulf countries against fraud and breach of data is considered very timely indeed.

Gulf Computer Security Seminar will take place at the Diplomat Hotel Bahrain Feb 27-28, 1990. Further information can be obtained from the organisers.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WHEN men speak ill of thee, live so as nobody may believe them — Plato, Greek philosopher (427 BC-347 BC).

Omar under house arrest

Blind theologian remains enigma

FAYOUM, Egypt, (Reuter): At dusk a blind man in long white robes is led by his three sons from his home to the mosque across the road.

The Egyptian authorities regard Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman — the Muslim theologian accused but acquitted of inciting the assassination of president Anwar Sadat in 1981 — as one of the country's most dangerous men.

He is living under house arrest, cooped up on two floors of a small government-subsidised home in Fayoum, a pretty oasis city south-east of Cairo, with two wives and eight children.

Leader

The 52-year-old spiritual leader of the outlawed Jamaat Islamiya is on trial for alleged involvement in street clashes last April, but a court order has freed him pending the verdict.

Officially Sheikh Omar can go where he wants, but more than a dozen security guards around his house turn away visitors.

He is allowed out once a day to cross a dusty unpaved street to attend evening prayers at the tiny Sayed Kamel mosque. The guards fend off anyone trying to talk to him on his way there.

The guards point to a sign above the house's door saying it is a nursery school.

"And I am the headmaster of the school," said one man, his face nearly covered by a brown muffler, dark glasses and a black cap, who ordered journalists to leave — so as not to disturb the children.

Sheikh Omar's only contact with the outside world is the telephone.

Sheikh Omar wanted to give a news conference. But journalists outside his house were told he was out of town and would not talk to women.

He said on the telephone that he was in Fayoum and did want to talk.

Enigma

Sheikh Omar is as much of an enigma as the Islamic fundamentalists who support him, surrounded by so many myths and conflicting information which keeps the truth a mystery.

Dangerous criminal or persecuted blind man, Sheikh Omar shows up the rival views of Egyptians about fundamentalists.

Some think the Islamic militants are plotting the violent overthrow of the state to set up an Iranian-style regime.

Others believe they are the victims of a random repression made possible by Egypt's wide-ranging emergency laws allowing thousands to be detained without charge.

Fayoum yields few answers to those conflicting views.

In run-down backstreets near Sheikh Omar's house, there are many bearded men and the women are covered from head-to-toe, often in black, — the hallmarks of Islamic militancy.

But elsewhere in the predominantly peasant town, women in gaily-coloured clothes with baskets on their heads carry on as the Egyptian Fellahs (peasants) have been doing for centuries, their lives little touched by political changes or upheavals.

Old men sit outside drinking tea under the winter sun and talking. A few tourists come to buy baskets and look at Fayoum's famous water wheels.

To the government, Fayoum is a hotbed of fundamentalism.

But only the presence of dozens of soldiers, standing on alert after Friday prayers, gives any hint of tension.

Even today, the fundamentalist movement remains as obscure as it did 10 years ago before the murder of Sadat.

Fragmented into groups, it ranges from the Jamaat, initially a university-based grouping courted by Sadat to offset communists, to the Jihad — whose members killed Sadat — to the Muslim Brotherhood. Only the brotherhood has gained official tolerance and is allowed to sit in Parliament.

Solution

All offer Islam as the solution to Egypt's problems and are believed to have support in all levels of society.

Their influence is evident in the growing number of women wearing the veil and in increasing numbers of people who stop work to pray five times a day.

Many believe that is simply because more Egyptians are turning to religion to find comfort from economic hardship.

Since Sadat's assassination fundamentalists have kept a relatively low profile but whether this is because they are weaker or better controlled is impossible to assess.

New Interior Minister Mohammed Moussa, who replaced hardliner Zaki Badr last month, is reported to be a moderate, able to talk to Muslims. Newspapers say hundreds have been released from jail since Moussa took office.

But Sheikh Omar says dozens have been arrested since Moussa took over and the word in Fayoum is that he is even tougher than his predecessor.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1560 — Turkish galleys rout Spanish fleet under Duke of Medina Celi off Tripoli.
- 1587 — Mary Queen of Scots is beheaded after being accused of plotting murder of England's Queen Elizabeth I.
- 1725 — Russia's Peter the Great dies, is succeeded by his widow, Catherine.
- 1807 — Indecisive battle at Eylau, Russia, between France and combined Russo-Prussian army.
- 1809 — Austria's King Francis I decides on war with France.
- 1872 — Earl of Mayo, Viceroy of India, is murdered.
- 1920 — During World War I, German Nazis shoot every tenth person in two Polish villages near Warsaw in reprisal for deaths of two German soldiers.
- 1940 — Russian Bolsheviks capture Odessa.
- 1949 — Eire declares it is unable to participate in Nato while Ireland remains divided.
- 1962 — US military council is established in South Vietnam.
- 1963 — Rebels in Baghdad, Iraq, assassinate premier Abdul Karim Kassem who is replaced by Abdul Salam Arif.
- 1964 — Holland's Princess Irene renounces her rights to throne to marry Roman Catholic Spanish prince, Carlos Hugo of Bourbon-Parme.
- 1974 — Three US Skylab astronauts return to earth after setting record of 84 days in orbit.
- 1975 — Soviet spacemen begin training with Americans for joint US-Soviet Apollo-Soyuz flights.
- 1988 — European Economic Community's 12 member nations deplore Israeli tactics on its occupied territories as illegal and repressive.
- 1989 — Muslim rebels fire rocket into crowded area of Afghanistan capital of Kabul, killing seven people.

Scholastic analysis

SIR: It is unfortunate that Dr Haider Mehdi's scholastic analysis of Kashmir situation, in your letters to the Editor lends respectability to those sub-continentals who never cleared such mental blockages as Hindus and Muslims, India and Pakistan and are only too eager to keep their perception of rights and wrongs enveloped in those emotional hangovers. In those minds most political judgements must be polarised between two religious or political axes and without a little bit in between as a concession to a long-term historical vision. Over a hundred years ago if Abraham Lincoln lacked that "little vision" and thought that the answer to mass discontent was to preside over dismembering of a nation, I am sure the name Lincoln, by now, would have been consigned to the basement of the United (or UnUnited) States history.

It will be a gross perversion of truth to claim that the Kashmiris do not have genuine grievances and they are not driven by a strong popular feeling for change. It will be equally presumptuous to leap to the conclusion, as apparent in the letter under discussion, that the solution lies in separation. If with every turn in popular perception of the ruling authorities, the pundits reach for the pen to draw an additional line on a nation's map, I guess, by this time next century the United Nations will take up half of New York City to sit all the delegates of the much expanded family of nations.

When I occasionally gain the privilege to enter the ivory towers (apology to the elephant lovers) of my academic friends, the world below glows up with such views as groups of unhappy people tearing up a long established existing order and living happily ever after. Alas! The reality is very different. I travel down the list of newly independent nations in the post-war period, and there will be no dearth of nations in which democracy and freedom of choice exist for only a privileged few. If Mehdi takes a sympathetic view of the Kashmiris and their current aspirations, he may like to remember in silence for a moment those millions who opted for Pakistan forty three years ago and left this world disappointed that their cherished dream of "government by the people, of the people ..." never quite realised. As for equal rights and opportunities, the Mohajirs may have some unpleasant tales to tell.

For all its faults, Indian democracy is approaching its golden jubilee and it has not been without its share of pains. If it has not always respected the legitimate rights of every minority, it has not hidden behind a curtain of religious or other fanaticism to legitimise its failings either. There are few countries outside of the first world, that persevered to maintain a set of institutions with enough power to restrain self-serving regimes tampering with basic human rights. Leaving India, the Kashmiris will have to pack their bags well and travel a long way to find a mature democratic alternative that allows them freedom to protest.

Furthermore, these concerned individuals are considered the termites of society. Termites of society in the sense that, they ruined the life, dreams and the future of these less fortunate individuals. In addition, the dignity, purity or in other words, the virginity of a woman that she protected for years will only be robbed if a male sexual partner is due to their misbehaviour.

Basing on several reports on the newspaper, wherein, there are some who abuse and exploit their maids. Don't they have hearts and minds?

Don't they feel guilty and afraid of what they are doing? It's a pity to those who are being exploited and abused namely, less fortunate maids. And due to this trauma, some of the victims become numb, and others become insane, due to the fact,

that they can't accept how they were being exploited and abused.

Through the web of Mehdi's intellectual discourse on the subject it is not clearly visible on what logical foundation he builds his superstructure of an independent Kashmir or an enlarged Pakistan. If dissatisfaction of the minority is an overwhelming justification, can one bring the green flag out to start Sind, Baluchistan off to their independent destinies. But we may be stopped in our tracks with the argument that there is no kidnapping, shooting and other forms of violence on that scale to express the dissatisfaction there. In wise parlours, it is doubtful if that argument will hold much water. I am sure Mehdi will be the last person to suggest that best response to organised violence is conceding to it. One has to respect the popular backlash of the Kashmiris against maladministration and economic stagnation, but one would be lost for justification why such dignified people and a just cause be hijacked by terrorist murdering a diplomat on foreign soil and kidnapping a young woman. It is worth a conjecture that the terrorists' goal may not be identical with the best interests of the people of Kashmir valley.

Ignoring the terrorist factor in the situation, let us assume that the turmoil in Kashmir is a popular uprising to dismantle an oppressive regime of nearly half a century and not exploited by unscrupulous political ambition of a few. In a political system in which our Kashmiri's vote counts as much as any other Indian's and Kashmir is free to choose its state legislature to reflect its aspirations, it may be more appropriate to look for the villain in the corruption, nepotism and ineffectiveness of the Kashmiri politicians. If Delhi is guilty of any misdemeanour it is its tolerance and at times patronising of such elements for the narrow interest of the party. An independent Kashmir would be the ideal solution, if one could produce convincing arguments that with every secession politics moved to higher ethical plateaus and angels descended from the political heavens. Evidence to the contrary is overwhelming, one just has to look round.

If an argument is advanced that Kashmiri's few million Muslims cannot influence the national politics, it will only be natural to extend that argument infinitely to cover any other ethnic, religious and other groups. In its ridiculous extremes, every community, however small can disappear into an insular cell. Social and political fragmentation is a process that has the same natural instincts as the biological cell division. Unchecked, it follows its unwinding cycle and the concept of such things as society, state and federation become objects of intellectual curiosity only. I hope we do not arrive in the twenty first century with an unfortunate legacy of founding nations on the affinity of customs, language or religion. After centuries of animosity, Europeans are now discovering that one does better by harnessing what is common amongst them rather than what is common.

So far I have not read anywhere that he has written in the comics something against 'The Holy Quran'. He has just translated and illustrated 'The Quran' in the form of comics so that little children, who are fond of them, will take more interest in reading it and understand it much better.

Had he published his work before the 'Salman Rushdie controversy', he would have been held in high regard and his work would have been appreciated. All the fingers are not of the same size. Just because one man disgraces something and another man tries to help does not mean that he has bad intentions too.

These Islamic leaders and 'maulanas' just to get their names in the paper, are trying to accuse someone of sacrifice, even though he is trying to do just the opposite. The 'Bible' has been turned into comics and so have the life and teachings of 'Jesus Christ'. Is he not a prophet too? Why don't these people criticise this, then?

Anyway, to each his own beliefs. But I will say and say I shall that: 'A man who promotes and spreads the teachings of God in any harmless way whatsoever, should be held in high regard and respected — not demoted to the ranks of heathens and blasphemers.'

To sum up, the answer to Kashmir is not an amputation of a nation that tries hard to make secularism and freedom of political choice the sacrosanct principles guiding its destiny, in spite of such powerful diversionary forces as poverty, corruption and tensions of holding a country of India's diversity together. Removal of Kashmir, in all probability, will pave the way for the eventual Balkanisation of India. This can only destabilise the whole of South Asia and make room for the expansionists from outside. We may achieve more for ourselves and posterity, if

we stick with the unfinished task set by the lofty ideals of Indian constitution, and continue to bear the pains of doing so. The Kashmiris, even with the best intention in the world, may find secession is not an instant passport to social and political justice. Even if they manage to leave India taking with them the virtues of the system they leave behind, they will, at best, be starting all over again to reinvent the same wheel as India has laboured on for so long, quite possible, great Kashmiri hopes will end up with a smaller and weaker wheel, not strong enough to stand up to periodic assaults on the system by unscrupulous political ambitions. Would it not be better to live in a federal system where diversity provides the best long-term insurance against extremism?

Subir Ray,
Safat.

Human behaviour

SIR: In fact, the behaviour of people around and as per experience inspired me to write this article, to precise the behaviour of men. A behaviour which endangers the life of the opposite sex. Woman, who is the weaker sex, easily falls in the hands of certain men. I'm not talking in mass, but to the concerned individuals, they know themselves, and they know who they are. How do these concerned individuals love to stay in the dark or somewhere else where they will wait for their prey. And this prey, who is the opposite sex who doesn't like to be jeopardised will try to defend herself in any way. And how would these concerned individuals like to be glared at and to hear nasty words being shouted at them. Why do they behave this way?

Scientifically speaking, we, human beings who belong to the highest form have the will and intellect to know and to differentiate what is right and wrong, what is good and bad lower themselves to the lowest form of animal that has no will and intellect, that has no direction and aim in life. In this case, these concerned individuals, are only after their bodily desires or earthly pleasures but they did never care not think about the danger or risk they may bring about to the opposite sex due to their misbehaviour.

Basing on several reports on the newspaper, wherein, there are some who abuse and exploit their maids. Don't they have hearts and minds? Don't they feel guilty and afraid of what they are doing? It's a pity to those who are being exploited and abused namely, less fortunate maids. And due to this trauma, some of the victims become numb, and others become insane, due to the fact,

that they can't accept how they were being exploited and abused.

More so, these concerned individuals should have in their minds that, "a woman is not a thing, to be possessed, but a person to be cherished."

Nevertheless, the truth hurts, but they should be humble enough to accept the truth, for it is important to accept the truth, that they have done the initial move for a better change.

Yes, this is criticism, but there are two kinds of criticism. One, is destructive criticism, a criticism without any good purpose but to insult and destroy an individual. Whereas, constructive criticism which in my point of view, is the kind of criticism whose purpose or aim, is to help these concerned individuals realise and straighten their weak points and misbehaviour in order to build them up to a better person and to bring welfare to the opposite sex as well.

Lastly, it is in solitude that one may have peace of mind, wherein one could closely examine his inner self. Hence, it won't take long for an individual to make a better change, provided, he is humble to realise and accept his mistake. And thus, he lessens the termites of society. Likewise, he becomes a man of values and principles.

Chaitra Lacerre Valdez,
Al Nuqra.

Proud Muslim

SIR: I am a Muslim and proud to be one. Let me remind all the readers, Muslim and non-Muslim, that the first duty of Islam is to spread the message of Allah to each and every one peacefully and with love. I admit that I have not been able to do so, so far, and I am ashamed of it. But why must we stop others from doing so?

Our beloved prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "A man should earn and spread knowledge from his womb to his tomb." Then why is it that people criticise others who are doing so.

Recently another such controversy has started about a man named 'Sedik' in France who has published 'The Holy Quran' in the form of a comic. And the so-called Islamic leaders instead of encouraging him are on the contrary criticising and belittling his efforts in spreading the message of God.

So far I have not read anywhere that he has written in the comics something against 'The Holy Quran'. He has just translated and illustrated 'The Quran' in the form of comics so that little children, who are fond of them, will take more interest in reading it and understand it much better.

Had he published his work before the 'Salman Rushdie controversy', he would have been held in high regard and his work would have been appreciated. All the fingers are not of the same size. Just because one man disgraces something and another man tries to help does not mean that he has bad intentions too.

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Anyway, to each his own beliefs. But I will say and say I shall that: 'A man who promotes and spreads the teachings of God in any harmless way whatsoever, should be held in high regard and respected — not demoted to the ranks of heathens and blasphemers.'

Sohail Javed Butt,
Kuwait.

Biased coverage

SIR: I strongly agree with all the contents of the letter headlined "Be objective" sent by Abdel Majeed Ismail, Cairo, Egypt published on 29-1-

90. For a long time I have been observing that your attitude towards Pakistan is totally prejudiced if compared with India. Like Arab Times, other daily Arabic newspapers have adopted the same attitude towards Pakistan.

I do not know what wrong Pakistan has done that makes Arab Times hate Pakistan. Openly Pakistan is backing the PLO and supporting the fight for Palestine liberation, on the other hand, with the same aims and purposes like Palestinians, our Kashmiri brothers are fighting struggling and sacrificing their lives for the liberation of Kashmir. Why is it that the "intifada" of Kashmir is not similar to the "intifada" of the Palestinians? The point of view of Arab Times is hopeless and despairs Kashmiris and my country, Pakistan. Whenever you publish a map of the subcontinent you always show Kashmir as a part of India, you must be aware that Jammu and Kashmir is disputed area and must not be shown as part of India.

I am very sorry to state that your newspaper always declines to give any good news about Pakistan, moreover your staff does not like to give any news about Pakistan. I do not understand your paper's attitude.

I also notice your paper uses the words "separatist" to describe Kashmiri liberators who are fighting for the same freedom as Palestinians and Afghan mujahideen. Why do you not call the fight by Kashmiris as jihad?

Kashmiri point of view is very clear and the UN had passed a resolution for the Kashmir problem, and according to the UN resolution, Kashmiris are struggling and fighting for their fundamental rights as Palestinians are.

Our Kashmiri and Palestinian brothers are fighting for their land. Because Kashmiris are non-Arab and Palestinians are Arab, that is why your paper is discriminating against them.

Being a Muslim and just journalist, your staff must take sides with Pakistan and Kashmir.

I hope your paper would take positive action and would become a true paper.

Mohammed Akram,
Safat.

Transportation woes

No interest in 'adventurism': Iran

NICOSIA, Feb 7. (Reuters): President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani declared today Iran had no interest in Islamic "adventurism" and appealed to foreign countries for economic help.

"Iran is ready to begin a new reconstruction era with all-out co-operation," he said, referring to Iran's new five-year plan which envisages \$27.6 billion in foreign credit.

"As far as we are concerned the field is open for cooperation with those governments which want to sincerely co-operate with us."

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Gang man hanged

DAMASCUS, Feb 7. (AP): A member of an armed gang who was convicted of murder and robbery was hanged in the northern city of Hama, the Syrian daily newspaper Al-Baath reported today.

The condemned, member of the ruling Baath Party, said Mohamed and Mahmoud Kaddour, 30, was member of a gang in the Syrian Takabkh area near the border with Lebanon.

It said, Kaddour robbed three priests in October and fled toward the Lebanese side of the border with his partner, Khalid Al-Saifi.

Peace talks

ADDIS ABABA, Feb 7. (Reuters): The rival factions of a small rebel group fighting for independence in the Red Sea province of Eritrea have united for preliminary peace talks with the Ethiopian government, deputy Prime Minister Asfawye Yigleman was quoted as saying today.

Rebels destroyed

ADDIS ABABA, Feb 7. (AP): Ethiopia said today its army had destroyed a large rebel force in southern Gondar province and was slowly pushing back insurgents in neighbouring Wollo province.

The official news agency said army units had reached the outskirts of the strategic city of Welwuda in northern Wollo province, making what it called "slow but steady" progress against apparently stiff opposition.

Fighter equipment

WASHINGTON, Feb 7. (Reuters): The United States plans to sell Turkey \$205 million in sophisticated targeting and navigation equipment for use in F-16 jet fighters, the Pentagon said yesterday.

The plan, sent to Congress by President George Bush, is expected to become law in 30 days without opposition from lawmakers.

Egyptian envoy

Cairo, Feb 7. (Reuters): An Egyptian envoy will visit Moscow on Sunday to prepare a meeting next month between President Hosni Mubarak and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, the semi-official Al Ahram newspaper said.

In an early edition, it quoted diplomats as saying the meeting was expected to take place in Moscow in the second half of March.

Unity summit

ABU DHABI, Feb 7. (Reuters): North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh will soon visit Aden for a summit on the planned merger of South and North Yemen, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper said today.

Al Ittihad newspaper, in a report from Sanaa, said Saleh would meet South Yemen's ruling Socialist Party leader Ali Salem Al-Baidh to discuss "moves taken so far to unify the two countries."

The planned summit will be the second since November 30, when the two leaders decided to merge their countries within a year.

Repatriation

KHARTOUM, Feb 7. (AP): An unspecified number of soldiers who had fled to Zaire during a rebel attack in southern Sudan last month were returned to their base, the state-run Sudan news agency said yesterday.

Sudan did not indicate when the troops were repatriated nor how many they were, but rebel sources have said about 3,000 Sudanese army soldiers had fled to Zaire during a battle near Kajo-Kale last month.

Japanese team

TOKYO, Feb 7. (Kuna): Japanese Foreign Ministry will despatch a delegation to four Middle Eastern countries between February 9-25 to gather information on international efforts to establish peace in the region, it was officially announced today.

The commission which will be headed by Japanese former ambassador to the United Nations Kiowaki Kikuchi, will tour Syria, Jordan, Israel and Cyprus.

Con caviar

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb 7. (Reuters): Israeli researchers announced yesterday they had turned fish oil, stabilizers and preservatives into a gourmet almost indistinguishable from caviar.

Deletch, a subsidiary of the Technion Research and Development Foundation, said a special machine made the kosher caviar look like fish roe.

"The new caviar is made from natural products with no artificial colour and contains protein, fish oil, vegetable oil, stabilizers, salt and preservatives," the Haifa-based company said in a statement.

It said extensive testing in Israel and abroad had shown its black caviar was close to the taste of the expensive original.

The company said its product would sell for \$8 for 100 grammes, compared with hundreds of dollars for a similar amount of caviar.

Israeli bus ambush was plotted abroad

Cairo detains 100 suspects

CAIRO, Feb 7. (AP): A terrorist attack on a tour bus that left nine Israelis dead and 20 wounded was plotted abroad and carried out by foreigners, Egypt's Interior Minister said today.

Maj. Gen. Abdel Hafiz Moussa, responsible for internal security, said his investigators have found "a number of clues that I hope will lead us to the full dimensions of the incident" and to the ambishers.

But as the Egyptian police searched, one of Egypt's most lucrative tourist markets is drying up. Except for journalists, Israelis are staying away.

Sunday's attack by two gunmen who used automatic weapons and hand grenades in a bus carrying 31 Israeli tourists 40 miles (64km) northeast of Cairo, already has caused many Israeli cancellations.

In Saudi Arabia yesterday, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid said he hopes the incident will not deter Israelis from coming to Egypt.

Then in today's statement distributed by the state-run Middle East News Agency, Interior minister Moussa said: "It's certain... that the perpetrators of this crime are non-Egyptians, and that the plotting was done abroad and carried out on Egyptian soil."

He did not elaborate, but newspaper reports pointed to a Palestinian connection. Both the bus driver, who police sources said had worked with the bus company for less than a month, and the man who rented the attack car reportedly are Palestinians by birth.

Sources also said about 100 suspects were detained for questioning, mostly Palestinians. The sources, who demanded anonymity, said they included a Palestinian suspected of having driven the attack car.

In Cairo itself, life was normal, although security was stepped up at the main synagogue and seaports and airports remained in a state of alert.

Palestinian radicals based in Syria could have been involved, said a Western diplomat.

The diplomats added that a plan to carry out Saturday's ambush of an Israeli tourist bus near Cairo, diplomats said today.

They said members of Islamic Jihad or other fundamentalist groups may have provided transport, arms and intelligence for the hit squad which killed nine Israelis and two Egyptians. The raid wounded 19 other people.

The diplomats said professional gunmen brought in from outside Egypt probably carried out the dusk raid on the Cairo-Isma'iliya road, condemned by Washington, Israel, Egypt and the PLO as a blow against Middle East peace efforts.

The ambush would have taken at least three weeks and possibly as long as three months to organize, they told Reuters, saying one of the radical Palestinian groups



The mother and brother of an Israeli killed in the bus ambush stand in mourning at the funeral service in Holon, Israel, yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

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had established that the attackers were Palestinians. Among those detained was a Palestinian student named as Hosni Abdel Rehim Kaoud, who was picked up in a Nile delta village north of Cairo. He denied involvement.

The report said the machine-guns and grenades used in the attack had been smuggled into the country through an Egyptian port.

Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali yesterday expressed hope that the Israeli bus attack would not have negative impact on the peace process.

According to Radio Cairo, Ghali stressed that there is no Arab opposition to Egypt's peace efforts. "On the contrary," he said, "the Arab countries support Egypt efforts in this regard."

PLO-Syria talk on reconciliation

Belgrade no to Israel ties

TUNIS, Feb 7. (Agencies): At previous meetings the PLO agreed in principle to send a delegation to Damascus next week.

The PLO says Syria must release Palestinian detainees, recognise the state of Palestine proclaimed in 1988 and undertake not to interfere in Palestinian affairs. Syria objects to the PLO setting conditions for reconciliation.

In an interview published in the independent Tunis newspaper Al Sabah today, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat affirmed last night that it does

not intend to restore diplomatic relations with Israel, severed since the Israeli aggression on three Arab states in 1967.

The government's announcement was in response to the question made by Yugoslav parliamentarians to the federal government.

A number of Yugoslav deputies called on the government to review the severed diplomatic relations with Israel saying that an Arab country has already resumed diplomatic relations with Israel.

US denounces report of Bush-Mitterrand talk of hostage deal

WASHINGTON, Feb 7. (Reuters): The State Department yesterday denounced as "total nonsense" a French newspaper report of a purported discussion between President George Bush and French President Francois Mitterrand involving a deal for a hostage swap.

Deputy State Department spokesman Richard Boucher was asked to comment about a Le Figaro report that there was a conversation between Bush and Mitterrand involving a request by Iran to

passing.

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United States.

The report, quoting Foreign Ministry sources, said Bush told Mitterrand that Iranian negotiators had said eight American hostages could be freed if convicted Lebanese killer Anis Naouache was released from a French prison.

"It's nonsense, it's just total nonsense," Boucher said. "We don't make deals for hostages, we don't negotiate for hostages."

Asked if it would be desirable for the convicted

to be given an early release, Boucher said, "Our approach to the problem of terrorism has always been the rule of law has to be applied to terrorists. That's the way we deal with the problem."

Le Figaro said Naouache's life sentence for killing two people during a 1980 assassination attempt against former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar might be commuted to 20 years and that he could be freed as early as next year.

Police found 6.5 kg (14 pounds) of heroin with explosives believed to belong to Saleh's group hidden in a forest cache shortly before his arrest in 1987.

Fournel demanded the same sentence for Lebanese bomb expert Haider Habib, who is wanted under an international arrest warrant and is being tried in his absence.

Saleh, his wife and eight others are suspected of carrying out a bombing hit on Paris shops, restaurants and railway stations in 1985-86

which killed 13 people and injured 250.

Iran quoted the group's statement as saying.

The agency said more than 2,000 Iranians study in Britain.

Irna said the student committee presented the statement to the Majlis, or parliament, and other senior officials.

The agency said student representatives met with Mostafa Moazzemzadeh, head of the Majlis committee on industries and mines, who said Britain's attitude would affect its participation in the \$14 billion industrial projects included in the newly approved 5-year plan.

Political sources said he was seeking a period of social peace to complete a flagging economic reform drive he launched in the mid-1980s, widely deemed essential to overcome an economic crisis.

"If extensive testing in Israel and abroad had shown its black caviar was close to the taste of the expensive original.

The company said its product would sell for \$8 for 100 grammes, compared with hundreds of dollars for a similar amount of caviar.

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EVENTS

Reza Ali Khan: hidden in the shadows

By Faithima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

INDIAN classical singer Reza Ali Khan's reputation precedes him, or rather the reputation of his grandfather, Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan.

Reza, who came on a private visit to Kuwait earlier this month, has created a quite a stir among music enthusiasts with his rendition of both classical

and light musical numbers at "mehfils" (private gatherings). But it is the shadow of his illustrious grandfather that engulfs him, and unfortunately, people recognise him more for his family heritage than for his own achievements.

Judging from his performance at mehfils, he seems to be an accomplished singer in his own right, and despite the unfair comparisons, he is as good if not

better than Bade Ghulam Ali Khan.

"I've stopped telling people to compare me with my grandfather; gradually, I've learned to live in the shadow of both Bade Ghulam Ali and my father," he says.

Reza belongs to the well-known Patiala Gharana (a family of professional musicians), exponents of the Hindustani style of music which developed during the time of the Mughals on the matrix of rich Indian heritage interacting with Persian-Arabic influences, intermingling ideas and techniques. The Patiala Gharana is a mixture of four big gharanas, Delhi Jaipuri, Dagar and Mirabadi. The later part of the 19th century saw the revival of the Hindustani style, and despite diminishing princely patronage, prominent musicians revived the art and science of Hindustani music.

Among the revivalists were Pandit Vishnu Digamber followed by virtuoso stalwarts like Ustad Fazil Ali Khan, Ali Bahadur Janhali and Bade Ghulam Ali Khan.

Reza, in his own way, is carrying on the mantle thrust on him by birth and his own quest for musical excellence. Music flows in his blood; rhythm and melody come as naturally to him as fish takes to water. Although he was introduced to music at the age of 5, it was not until he was 14 that he took it up as a serious vocation. He has not looked back since, first experimenting with

jazz and trying out light classical music and settling for classical music.

In the late 1970s, he formed a jazz band, experimenting with musical forms Indian and Western. Although it was an invigorating experience, it did not last long and he returned to his roots, studying the twelve-tone complex of Hindustani music. The 12-tones, he says, is the substance out of which scales and tunes give rise to variations. He believes in improvising but not at the cost of musical norms. During his love-affair with jazz he improvised, often blending jazz and Hindustani music to create off-beat melodies. Supported by a deep, resonant controlled voice, he is already on the way to becoming a "good performer" he craves to be as he treks uphill in the competitive world of music.

It's not the competition he is worried about. It's the lack of music culture that bothers him as he paints a gloomy picture of the classical music scene in India. "It's a bad time for Indian classical music," he says. Despite concerted efforts to train musicians? "Yes," he says.

Reza says that people are training in the theory and history of music while neglecting its practical applications. "So, we have many historians and theoreticians but not many performers," he says.

People who don't know the a-b-c of music are running the

places; they do what others tell them to do," he claims. And, as an example, he cites the Sangeet Research Academy, which he says has not turned out "even one musician of repute".

He also decries the bureaucratic hassles, favouritism and politicisation of music centres in India. "They are wasting their time," he says.

Reza is not. He is using every moment of his life to make every mehfil the "best performance" of his life. And prepares to take fame in his stride.

For Reza, "music is an emotional experience, a means to make listeners laugh or cry, depending on the sound of music." Although articulate, the only time he has difficulty expressing himself is when you ask him what music means to him.

"It's yet to be a spiritual experience, I can't express my feelings about music in words," he says. But when the lights dim and he caresses his harmonium, and his accompanist Salem plays the tabla, the rhythm and melody flow in unison. It seems inconsequential what he is singing — a khayal, a thumri, raga darbari or a Ghalib ghazal. Appreciation is spontaneous.

For Reza, the mehfils, perhaps, are the launch pad for the fame to come. For listeners, his renditions are an experience to cherish. And one day, he might just emerge from his grandfather's shadow and shine on his own.

Ustad Walton Dass Nite



Ustad Munir Khan



Valencia Daniel



Lakshmi Raju

THE Ustad Walton Dass Nite, organised by the Sur Sangeet Group will be held on Feb 9, Friday, at the Rama Hotel, at 6.30 pm.

The evening features Walton Dass, a well-known sitar exponent, who has regaled audiences in Kuwait during his six years stay here. The evening will also feature classical dances, popular Hindi film music, ghazals, Punjabi songs and qawwali.

Walton Dass comes from Bangalore, India. He obtained instrumental training from Ustad Abdul Baqi Saheb from the age of nine and learnt to play the sitar, tabla, harmonium and other instruments. In 1949, he became a radio artist in India and also played in the court of the Maharaja of Jamnagar. In the 1950s, he took part in government sponsored cultural shows abroad and travelled to several countries. Later, he dabbled in light music and joined the Filmistan Studio's orchestra.

His son, Edwin, has inherited his father's talent and has appeared in several shows in Kuwait, both on stage and on the television.

In addition to Walton and Edwin Dass, other performers include Charles Dass, Karim, Paul Martin, Robert Simpson, Rocky, Kidikar Raju, Lakshmi Raju, Valencia Daniel, Rose Bud and Mrs Karim.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Opening and Holy Quran

9.15 Cartoons

9.45 Cartoon Serial

10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)

10.30 The Children's Magazine: Local children's programme, prepared by Ameena Khairi.

11.00 Al Ahadeeth Al Mawduoos: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Abusaleem.

11.15 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday Prayers and speeches

12.25 Alwan: Variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Faris and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab.

1.00 News Summary

1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)

1.20 Al Hadeth Al Detai: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi.

2.00 The Friday Break: Local variety programme, prepared by Qasem Abdul Qader and presented by Dr Khalid Shawqi.

3.45 Al Hola We Saceno: Arabic serial (part 4), starring Hussain Fahmi, Ismail Younis.

4.45 Saham Al Fadha: cartoon serial

5.15 Cartoons

5.30 Varieties

5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official advertisements

6.00 Waqal Hakeem: Historical serial (part 1), starring Radhwani Aqeli, Ali Abdul Aziz, Iman Kamel and Anver Khaled

6.45 Egypt information message to the State of Kuwait

7.00 Maa Al Talaba: local programme, prepared by the Ministry of Education, School Activity Department, presented by Ali Hasan

8.00 Popular varieties

8.30 Maa Al Islam: Religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mazkoor

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Lil Adala Wajih Akhar: Arabic serial (part 1), starring Afaf Shuaib, Omar Al Hareri, Safa Al Sabie and Mohamed

10.45 Al Ab Al Thaer: Arabic feature film, starring Erzat Al Alayli, Samah Anwar, Raja Al Jeddawi and Ibrahim Al Shami

12.20 Thursday variety late night feature

1.30 News summary

1.35 The World Today via Satellite

1.35 Holy Quran and closedown

7.00 Wild America: Beautiful Blinds: A special programme on the colour blue and its relation with plants and animal life in America.

7.30 My Secret Identity: Two Faces Have It: Jef becomes a schizophrenic and dates a woman whom he hates... Will Andrew succeed in putting an end to this love affair.

8.00 News in English

8.10 The Land Song

8.30 The Bill Cosby Show: It comes And it Goes

10.00 More Real People: Hockey under water... Belly dancer and men... Music and its relation with happiness

10.30 Feature Film: Last Days of Frank & Jesse James: Starring David Alan Coc, James Cagney, Young Cash. The story of Jesse and Frank and circumstances that set them on the road of crime, Jesse's love life and marriage.

12.00 News in brief

12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

FRIDAY

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran

6.10 Cartoons

6.30 Walt Disney Movie: 14 Going On 30: A school boy has the chance to foil a marriage arrangement between his teacher whom he hates and another woman by returning back in time...

8.00 News in English

8.30 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts in Kuwait...

8.45 Rescue: 911: The team carries out a certain number of rescue operations.

9.30 The Weekend Programme: A weekly local programme on variety of topics and local activities and events...

10.00 Roseanne: "To we're not in Kansas Anywhere." The radio forecasts that a hurricane will strike the area and gives certain instructions and warnings to the people where Rosie comments on such news... in humorous way...

10.30 The Mystery Wheel: "Murder, Smoke Shadow": A famous director kills his child... friend who threatened to revealing an old secret which may destroy his future. His corpse is mutilated and thrown in a deserted beach... Colombo investigates.

11.30 News in brief

11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait

Al Ameen Pharmacy

Jaber Al Mubarak Street

Ebin Seena Pharmacy

Mubarak Al Kabeer Street

Hawalli and Nigra

Al Firdous Pharmacy

Beirut St

Salimya and Rumailiya

Razzan Pharmacy

Al Razi Street

Fahdheel and Almadi

Al Ahmad Pharmacy

Al Jeeb Eshyekh

Al Namrat Pharmacy

Opp. to Jeeb Eshyekh

School

Jahra

Al Zahra Pharmacy

The New Souq

Gulf Souq

Cartoon Society

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.12 am

Zohr 12.02 pm

Aср 3.09

Maghrib 5.31

Isha 6.50

FRIDAY

Fajr 5.12 am

Zohr 12.02 pm

Aср 3.10 pm

Maghrib 5.32

Isha 6.51

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran

6.10 The Smurfs: A cartoon series for children

6.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magic acts and illusions... training children on how to use or deal with information.

11.30 News in brief

11.45 Magazine D'Actualite

Holiday Inn - Kuwait receives Superior Hotel Award

The Holiday Inn - Kuwait is one of approximately 300 hotels selected to receive Holiday Inns' Superior Hotel Award for 1989.

The Superior Hotel Award is presented only to those Holiday Inn hotels that are considered among the best in the system in both service and product quality. Of the approximately 1,600 hotels in the chain's worldwide system, an average of 12 per cent are recognized as Superior Hotels.

Hotels receiving the award are nominated by their district directors, and must have been open and operating for at least one year. For consideration for the award, a hotel must receive perfect scores on two consecutive quality assurance evaluations and the latest guest service evaluation. In addition, the hotel must receive top guest inspection scores and a low number of written complaints.

During a special ceremony on 12/1/90 Abdennader, the general manager presented Superior Hotel pins to each employee and thanked them for their dedication in helping their hotel win the Superior Hotel recognition.

In addition to the employee pins, the hotel received a special trophy. The award also puts the hotel in the running for the company's annual Top 20 Award.

Winners of the company's Top 20 Award will be announced at the Holiday Inn System Conference in San Francisco in September. The winning general managers will receive a seven-day Caribbean cruise.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Expat finance

Finding the right place

By Tony Mustafa
Overseas Financial Services

In my last article, I outlined the idea of a ten year unit linked Life Assurance Plan and I would now like to dwell on that subject a little longer since it is one of the most useful and important tools available to anyone shaping an overall financial plan. Not only is it efficient as a medium term investment but in most cases can be used as the most efficient long-term pension planning vehicle also—not necessarily on its own, since there is no panacea for all ills, but as a component part of an overall structure.

Last week I described how, instead of insuring one big "policy" for £1,500 per month, the arrangement, by means of a simple entry into the computer, issues one hundred policies at £15 per month each.

However, an arrangement of this type must, in most cases, be capable of running ten years and you only have a five year contract or expectancy of contract offshore. What do we? Well, the insurance company will take your £1,500 per month and invest the lot £900 into the ten year plan and six hundred in a bond of some sort, varying from company to company. In year six that bond will have grown to £900 and they will have a "power of attorney" enabling them to cash the bond and pay the £900 due for the ten-year-plan's input. Likewise, the excess from year two will fund year seven, year three funds year eight etc. to completion. You have now contributed, as far as the ten-year-plan is aware, 10 years x 12 months x £900 = a total of £108,000 (the actual input was of course 5 x 12 x £150 = £90,000).

If the actual growth rate, with all expenses and charges deducted, is 15 per cent, you will have a fund of £223,344 at the ten year point. If the growth rate is 12 per cent that fund will be £212,274.

If you need, say, £10,000 at that stage you merely encash the relevant portion of policies, leaving the remainder to grow tax-free offshore—unless you happen to be British, of course, in which case special rules apply, and these can largely be got around by the use of an offshore trust.

Provided, thereafter, that you strip out the fund at a rate below that at which it is growing, you have a source of income available to you which, as it is treated as a "return of capital" is neither taxed nor added to your other incomes) for tax purposes.

In this way the ten-year-plan can prove as much better retirement-income vehicle than, for example, conventional pension plans, the disadvantage being its much more rigid input structure. I don't think you can really compare the one to the other as

they are "different animals" but, rather than it being a case of either/or, you will probably find use and room for both! As I've mentioned before a keynote of good planning is flexibility and we should cater for the unforeseen unless we happen to be gifted with the "second-sight".

Another keynote is, of course, security, who are the companies offering to manage the expatriate's cash over this ten year plus period? There are a whole host of them, nearly all offshoots of internationally known names such as Eagle Star, Providence Capital International, Royal Insurance Royal Skandia (Royal Trust Bank), Canada & Skandia Assurance, Save and Prosper (Robert Fleming Group), Sun Alliance, Target, Tyndalls, Astas and many others.

I think it is best to stay with these big names (for your peace of mind at least) but there are other safeguards as well. The failure of the Gibraltar-based Sigma Life, British-based National Life fifteen years ago and the recent well publicised problems experienced by both London Life and the United Kingdom Provident Institution give plenty of justification for the would-be investor to look at the security question.

It is comforting to be able to relate, therefore, that nearly all the offshore companies are a very safe bet since, apart altogether from their parents' great financial muscle, they are also subject to some pretty strict scrutiny by the governments in whose jurisdiction they are based.

The main basis for these international offshoots are the Channel Islands—Jersey and Guernsey, the Isle of Man and, in continental Europe, Luxembourg. In Britain the Financial Services Act and the Policyholders Protection Act have been in force now for over a year and the "tax havens" mentioned are all very anxious to achieve "designated territory status" under that Financial Services Act; therefore they have put into practice policyholders of companies based in their territories.

The Isle of Man, for instance, has a voluntary scheme in operation, due to become statutory later this year which mirrors the UK Policyholders Protection Act. This scheme provides for a return of 90 per cent of the policyholders money in the event of one of their insurance companies becoming insolvent. This is paid by a levy on the other companies operating from island. (This "umbrella" only covers those who have taken out policies since the inception of the scheme in April 1988.)

Guernsey, however, has opted for a different set of rules. In this case the Guernsey Government requires insurance companies operating from there to keep 70 per cent of the assets

underlying their funds with an independent custodian trustee and that custodian trustee has to be both approved and supervised by the Superintendent of Insurance Business.

Luxembourg, however, has gone the whole hog and requires insurers based there to keep one hundred per cent of the relevant assets in the custody of a bank which is approved by the ministry of finance. Also, if the company were to get into trouble and the forced to wind up, those assets can only be disposed of and distributed to the policyholders to whom they belong — general creditors have no claim on them whatsoever.

The Offshore Finance industry has now grown to such a size and is of such importance to these offshore economies that all the authorities concerned are determined to ensure that, as far as they can, a breath of scandal will never attach to an insured based in their territories.

Also, the parent companies keep a close watching brief on their offshoots and the trend nowadays is for the smaller companies to be acquired by the giants of the business as happened recently in the case of Unilife of Luxembourg which was taken over by the Target Life Assurance Company which in turn is owned by the Trustees Savings Bank and that grouping also includes Hill Samuel, the International Merchant Bank. In this business big equates to safe.

But what of the person, who, for one reason or another, wants to buy Unit Trusts without a link to Life Assurance? Capital, one-off purchases, are no problem and, although not available in the case of every group, there are a whole host of companies offering monthly or annual unit purchase schemes.

However, the choice of the particular units is now back in your hands which brings us, full circle, back to the question of risk selection. I have dealt with this subject before (in a previous article) but, for those people who want the excitement of high risk and its possible consequent gains, let me briefly take a look at one whereas on a falling market the gearing factor will be three — reflecting the management's expertise in defence.

The best way to use these funds, in my humble opinion, is to wait for a sharp drop in the market (caused, perhaps, by a bout of profit-taking) and then buy in. Buying warrants towards the upper end of a Bull market can have disastrous consequences.

A rather more specialised gamble could be effected by taking a view on the British Gilt market and, in particular, that old chestnut, the War Loan Stocks. These are priced at least half their redemption price and yield about seven and a half per cent a year.

Futures, especially Commodity futures, are a very popular investment medium with Expatriates who, time after time, trot out the line given them by some salesman, that since there is a "money back" guarantee in seven years time they cannot lose. In fact what happens is that 60 per cent of the initial investment is put into a US Treasury Stock and the interest thereon, at seven and a half per cent, is compounded over the seven years, thus paying back all the Capital; meanwhile, the commodity future dealer gets busy with the remaining cash and trades on the Commodity markets!

exchanges for he hopes, a profit.

Over the last six or seven years the biggest of these funds has shown an average profit of 30 per cent per year but it must be stressed that this is in a period of rising Commodity prices—we have still to see them perform in a defensive role for an extended period of time.

And lets have a look at that "you cannot lose" aspect. If, instead of giving your bounded shelves or, whatever to the Commodity man, you instead, put it in a safe Bank Account at 10 per cent interest, then that bounded will have grown to a sum of one hundred and ninety five shekels (or Riyals or Rupees) in seven years time, although its buying power is probably the same as on day one. You have, therefore, suffered a 47.1 per cent loss!

Another popular investment medium is that of Warrant Funds. A warrant is merely a guarantee that you may buy a certain oil at a time in the future at a fixed price. In other words, it is a Share Option. These warrants were issued in large numbers in Japan over the last few years and have become so popular that the warrants have been detached from their accompanying original Shares and now form a market in their own right.

Because of their very nature they tend to react in a geared fashion to underlying market trends — on a rising market they will be geared at a factor of about three and a half to one whereas on a falling market the gearing factor will be three — reflecting the management's expertise in defence.

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DAMASCUS, Feb 7, (Reuters): Syria today announced its first trade surplus for 30 years, fuelled by rising oil exports and a healthier private sector, and proposed a budget to boost efficiency in agriculture and industry.

Exports more than doubled to £33.74 billion (£30.1 billion) in 1989 from 15.09 billion (£13.4 billion) the year before, economy and Trade Minister Mohammed Imadi was quoted by the official Sana news agency as saying.

Finance Minister Khaled Mahayni on Monday presented parliament with a draft 1990 budget of £61.875 billion (£5.52 billion), up from 57 billion (£5.08 billion) in 1989.

Mahayni said 87.6 per cent of budget revenues in 1990 would come from domestic sour-

ces, higher than last year and up from no more than 60 per cent between 1980 and 1985.

In past years other Arab states including Saudi Arabia have given Syria substantial aid.

Imadi said oil exports in 1989 totalled £9.14 billion (£815 million). New fields coming on stream boosted output to about 400,000 barrels a day, against 250,000 in 1988.

Private sector exports of such items as food, textiles, leather goods and livestock also surged to nearly half the total, encouraged by government.

An austerity drive helped imports fall to £23.31 billion (£2.08 billion) from 24.95 billion (£2.22 billion) in 1988.

The 1989 trade surplus was £10.44 billion

(\$932 million), against a 1988 deficit of £9.86 billion (£880 million).

The surplus was believed to be the country's first for 30 years, economists said.

But they added that a drought which has hit some farm output and the damming of the Euphrates River by Turkey partly offset the rosy economic picture.

Ankara is cutting the flow into Syria of the Euphrates, a major source of power and irrigation, for one month from January 13 to fill the Ataturk Dam in southeast Turkey.

Mahayni said big irrigation, agricultural and industrial projects would receive funds to boost their efficiency.

As in 1989, budget revenues in 1990 were expected to exactly equal spending.

Syria proposes budget to boost efficiency in agriculture

First trade surplus for 30 years

(continued from page 1)

to meet the objective in the case of oil was to keep imports from Third World countries "within reasonable proportions" by maintaining a policy of oil substitution.

The secretary-general stressed that the "unfortunate era of bad relations between Opec and non-Opec producers and oil consumers was behind us."

Opec alone did not have the resources to cope with the investment needed to increase capacity and would, therefore, have to call on other parties in the international oil market to help provide the necessary investment.

He said world demand for oil was projected to rise and non-Opec production was on the wane which would result in growing reliance on Opec. He warned that the next "shock" would come when it was found that Opec no longer had the production capacity to meet the rising level of demand.

He said according to each of the

three principal price and output scenarios that the organisation had examined, there was a problem of meeting the increase in the call on Opec oil as the decade progressed.

The current Opec output capacity was 27 million bpd, but sustainable production always ran 15 to 20 per cent below capacity, which means that the projected demand for Opec oil would exceed the sustainable output of the organisation by 1995, hence the need to expand this capacity "rapidly."

Opec alone did not have the resources to cope with the investment needed to increase capacity and would, therefore, have to call on other parties in the international oil market to help provide the necessary investment.

There is, consequently, an urgent need for all parties to engage in serious discussions to ensure that the seeds of crisis are not given a chance to germinate."

Subroto said Opec had proved its reliability as an oil supplier and thus was annoyed by oft-repeated statements expressing fears of "over-dependence" on a "handful of Middle East states."

He said it was "puzzling" for Opec to be told that oil imports from its member countries constituted a "threat" to the national security of some of the world's most powerful economies.

Dollar eases

LONDON, Feb 7, (Reuters): The dollar dipped to a two-year low against the West German mark in Europe before rallying to close only slightly down after a day of far-reaching political moves in the Soviet Union and East and West Germany.

Dealers said the market had discounted the immediate impact of the historic agreement by the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee on a plan to give up its monopoly on power.

They said the dollar would remain vulnerable and confidence in the market would stay strong until more details emerged of the today meeting in Moscow.

"The dollar is likely to remain in the market as we wait to see what comes of the Soviet meetings," one dealer in Frankfurt said. "The sentiment is still running in favour of the mark."

The mark, which has been supported by a belief that the West German economy stands to gain substantially from East bloc reforms, was further boosted by news that the Bonn cabinet had agreed to start currency union talks with East Germany.

Financial analysts believe a Bonn bailout of the moribund East German economy would stoke inflation and lead to higher interest rates in West Germany.

The dollar touched a low during trading of 1.6475 marks, the lowest since January 15, 1988, when it opened at 1.6319.

Seminar on oil and gas strategies in the '90s

Stable oil market 'vital'

HOUSTON, Feb 7, (Opeca): Opec Secretary-general Dr Subroto called today for a stable oil market, which, he emphasised, was essential for the orderly growth of the world's economy which could only be achieved through co-operation among all parties involved in the oil industry.

Addressing a seminar on "Oil and gas strategies in the 1990s" organised by the Cambridge Energy Research Associates, Subroto, speaking on "Opec in the new era" conceded that Opec's efforts to bring about wide-scale co-operation in the 1980s had only met "partial success". While what was achieved was welcome, he added, it fell short of the comprehensive level of co-operation and united action now required of all participants in the market to avert a running yield.

However, because of the Budget surpluses of recent years, the UK Government seems set on paying off its indebtedness and so the market is rapidly shrinking.

These Gilt Stocks are important to the institutions and, as availability dries up, the prices of War Loan can be expected to rise dramatically with the ultimate prize to the investor being War Loan redemption by the Government at face value; meanwhile, the consolation prize of a running yield is available.

Next week ... some heavyweight speculation in the form of Mortgages!

He said world demand for oil was projected to rise and non-Opec production was on the wane which would result in growing reliance on Opec. He warned that the next "shock" would come when it was found that Opec no longer had the production capacity to meet the rising level of demand.

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We want to put the CAN back into Canada and take out the AD. You will then be left with "CAN AD"! Can a person like you make a success in Canada? How can a new start be made? Can a certain amount of money set up in business in Canada? Can a consultant do everything? The answers are simple. You might even find them cold. But after years of experience we have learned the one thing that makes the difference between a winner and a loser — the truth.

Twelve articles of hard-hitting but encouraging facts about immigrating to Canada might be the most important reading you'll do all year. If you're serious, you'll be looking out for these articles but don't wait. Start doing your own research. Read what you can. And if you can't wait to hear from us through your newspaper, write, ring, fax or send a telex, indicating what you intend to do in Canada and we will send them to you. Free of charge and free of obligation.

And in the end your black and white dream might just become technicolor. But remember we'll be as hard on you as we are on the facts. That's why you'll probably trust us and see us when we visit forty-five countries regularly throughout the year. Get with the strength and stay with the truth. For more information on when and where you can learn whether you will be a winner or loser, contact:

We want to put the CAN back into Canada and take out the AD. You will then be left with "CAN AD"! Can a person like you make a success in Canada? How can a new start be made? Can a certain amount of money set up in business in Canada? Can a consultant do everything?

Eastern Europe's bank debt jumps

BASLE, Switzerland, Feb 7, (Reuter): Most East European countries slipped deeper into debt to Western banks in the third quarter of 1989 as their struggling economies continued to soak up foreign capital, according to the West's clearing bank.

Figures released today by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) show that the Soviet Union, fighting to modernise, was the region's biggest borrower in the quarter.

Adjusted for exchange rates, its foreign bank debt grew by \$1.58 billion in the period to \$42.06 billion.

Gross debt in Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Albania also rose, but other countries' indebtedness declined when exchange rates were adjusted, the BIS said.

The BIS acts as the clearing house for the world's leading central banks and monitors the international flow of money among banks in major financial centres.

Banks reporting to the BIS said their total lending to the region swelled by \$1.93 billion between the end of June and the end of September to \$1.80 billion. The major Western banks loaned the region \$5.54 billion in the first half of 1989.

The Soviet Union's borrowing accounted for almost all of the loans to Eastern Europe in the quarter. Its foreign bank debt has risen by around \$9 billion in the year ended last September, making its indebtedness roughly equal to Australia's.

The Soviet Union also withdrew \$675 million in foreign deposits, bringing its total down to 14.77 billion. In addition, its borrowing on international bond markets rose by \$500 million in the quarter to 1.4 billion.

The next biggest borrower in the period was Czechoslovakia, whose bank debt rose an adjusted \$23 million to 4.6 billion. Hungary's debt to BIS reporting banks advanced by \$8 million to 11.4 billion and Bulgaria's outstanding borrowing climbed by \$104 million to 7.48 billion.

Romania, which for years endured extreme hardship as the regime of deposed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu pushed exports to pay off its foreign debt, remained the only net creditor country in the region. It owed banks \$33 million, compared with \$1.45 billion in deposits.

Qatar keen to get Gulf capital

DOHA, Feb 7, (OPECNA): The Qatari government is keen to get Gulf capital into the country to speed up development efforts, according to a senior official here Monday.

Sheikh Khalifa Bin Jassim Al Thani, director at the Ministry of Economy and Trade, said that a number of important steps had been taken in this direction, including laws permitting nationals of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to practise trade activities in Qatar.

He said Qatar was the most active among GCC states in implementing the terms of the unified economic agreement and allowing GCC nations to engage in trade activities in the country.

Currency rates

| KUWAIT, Feb 7, (Kuwait): Following are the latest exchange rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today. | |
|--|----------|
| Buying | Selling |
| US dollar 0.28955 | 0.29070 |
| Sterling 0.49570 | 0.49540 |
| DM 0.19490 | 0.19460 |
| Fr. 0.19490 | 0.19730 |
| F.Fr. 0.05115 | 0.05168 |
| Lira 0.0023400 | 0.002366 |
| Yap.-yen 0.001967 | 0.002009 |
| Bah.-din 0.76780 | 0.77150 |
| UAE Dir. 0.07878 | 0.07875 |
| S. Syria 0.07748 | 0.07757 |
| Lev. 0.07948 | 0.07993 |
| Oriental 0.75130 | 0.75570 |

Interest Rates

| KUWAIT, Feb 7, (Kuwait): Following are the average K.D interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday. | |
|--|-------|
| Period | Rate |
| 1 month | 8.716 |
| 3 months | 8.716 |
| 6 months | 8.34 |
| 1 year | 8.34 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| Indian rupee 0.017250 | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Sri Lankan rupee | 0.007340 |
| Pakistani rupee | 0.013670 |
| Bangladesh taka | 0.008930 |
| US dollar | 0.290600 |
| Pound sterling | 0.496250 |
| UAE dirham | 0.079090 |
| Deutsche mark | 1.076100 |
| Japanese yen | 0.002007 |

Europe's green revolution could boost Gulf industry

BAHRAIN, Feb 7, (Reuter): The growing power of the "green" revolution could force many West European petrochemical plants to shut down and rebase in areas like the Gulf where energy costs are low, a senior British industrialist said today.

"They will want to base their operations in other places with competitive energy prices and secure energy supply."

Banham said industries most affected by demands to reduce or eliminate toxic emissions would be energy-inten-

sive plants producing chemicals, plastics, steel and textiles.

Environmental control costs and taxation of domestic energy would continue to rise, especially in Britain, he said.

"Political and public opinion will require that plants in Northern Europe are shut down if they do not meet the required environmental standards and the cost of failure to comply with these standards will grow progressively

higher," he said.

"Businessmen in the UK will be looking enviously at the possibility of access to a secure source of power at competitive prices ... we will be looking to secure our interests here."

Banham, visiting Bahrain on the first leg of a tour which will also include Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, said it was less expensive to design new plants with latest environmental controls than to adapt existing

(GCC) were successful.

Officials from the GCC grouping Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates say they are disappointed with EEC trade proposals because they do not offer painless protective barriers against key Gulf industries.

"In the long run, it cannot be in the interest of Northern European businesses to deny themselves access to a competitively priced supply of raw materials," Banham said.

Move to stave off looming economic collapse

Currency union talks approved

BONN, Feb 7, (Reuter): West Germany called on East Berlin today to agree to immediate negotiations on setting up a currency union meant to stave off looming economic collapse across the border.

The Bonn cabinet, in a rare meeting with West German Central Bank President Karl Otto Pöhl, decided to offer its muscular Deutschmark to replace East Germany's feeble currency in a radical step that could forge economic reunification soon.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel rushed to parliament after the meeting to tell deputies the "escalation of the crisis" in East Germany had forced Bonn to move fast to force back a wave of frustrated East Germans fleeing to prosperity in the West.

"We must remain master of the political process," Waigel told parliament.

Almost 70,000 East Germans — enough to fill a small city — have crossed the border so far this year, leaving gaping holes in their homeland's labour market and straining West Germany's tight job and housing markets.

Bonn politicians hope introduction of the Deutschmark will convince East Germans their work will be properly paid at home and at Western investors, assured by the West German central Bundesbank's control over the East German currency, would swarm into the country to help revive its tattered economy.

It would amount to a virtual annexation of the East German



The head of the West German Bundesbank Karl Otto Pöhl (left) talking to East German State Bank president Horst Kaminsky (right) in East Berlin (Reuter wirephoto)

economy, in advance of the political merger both states now say they want, and it would give the Frankfurt-based Bundesbank the final say over East Germany's monetary policy.

Pöhl, the official defender of the Deutschmark's value, has persistently warned of problems

a head-over-heels currency union would bring but is careful not to spell them out.

He repeated his opposition after meeting his East German counterpart Horst Kaminsky on Tuesday.

As one senior banking source

put it: "The only alternatives are higher inflation or higher interest rates."

Waigel said there was now no difference between himself, Pöhl and Economics Minister Helmut Haussmann, who had proposed a three-step currency plan only reaching unity in 1992.

As one senior banking source

Support for policy reforms

World Bank loans for Poland

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (UPI): World Bank President Barber Conable yesterday announced the multilateral organization's first two loans to Poland, totaling \$360 million, and said lending to the country could reach \$2.5 billion in the next three years.

The bank's lending programme will focus on supporting further policy reforms in Poland, including measures aimed at promoting a greater reliance on market forces and the private sector, Conable told a news conference.

"These are our first loans to Poland since it joined the bank" in July 1986, Conable said. "Looking to the future, the bank is working with Poland on a lending programme which could reach \$2.5 billion in new commitments over a three-year period."

Conable called the record of the Solidarity-led government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki "impressive." The government "has boldly begun to deal with the severe distortions that hamper the economy, and has started to introduce the major systemic changes which Poland needs," he said.

World Bank officials said that over the next 18 months, the bank expects to lend Poland around \$1.4 billion in addition to the \$360 million approved Tuesday.

The organization said a \$260



World Bank vice-president of Europe, the Middle East and Africa Willi Wipphahn speaks at a World Bank meeting that was due to approve \$360 million of loans to Poland. The loans would be the first approved by the World Bank for Poland. (Reuter wirephoto)

million loan will support a project to improve Poland's trade with hard currency countries in the West by raising the volume, quality and value of industrial exports.

The project consists of a \$245 million line of credit to the National Bank of Poland to finance export-oriented investments and \$15 million in tech-

nical assistance to help financial institutions and other agencies adjust to the country's economic and political environment.

The project focuses on chemical, electro-engineering and wood-based industries as well as smaller investments in other industries.

Another World Bank loan for \$100 million will support a project to assist Poland's efforts to rehabilitate, modernize and expand agricultural-processing industries, easing constraints on sales to hard currency markets.

Conable warned that "others will have to assist Poland, too. Indeed, nothing short of a broad-based international effort is warranted, given Poland's proven commitment to reform and courageous actions to date."

The World Bank president said he expects further actions from official creditors, who hold three-fourths of Poland's \$33 billion debt, to help ease the country's debt service burden.

The major industrial countries are providing Poland with billions of dollars in loans to help its transition from an inefficient centrally planned, inflation-ridden economy to a free market system.

The bank's sister institution, the International Monetary Fund, Monday approved a \$22.5 million loan to help Poland stabilize its economy.

Media network service unveiled

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (UPI): MCI Communications Corp., British Telecom and Japan's Kokusai Denshin Denwa announced today the formation of Commax, a new international network service.

The agreement makes possible a multi-media telecommunications network that will offer customers data, voice, and facsimile services.

MCI said it is the only US communications company to offer this type of service.

Commax, which will be commercially available by mid-1990, will consist of three control centres in Piscataway, New Jersey, Tokyo and London. Commax, available in the United States, can be accessed from the Far East and Europe.

Separately, MCI said that in a first step toward extending internationally its MCI Vnet Service, which affords clients the benefits of a private line

| Borsby Stock Exchange: prices (Rs) Feb 7. | |
|---|----------------------|
| Pr. Close | Open Close |
| ACC 327.50 | 331 330 |
| Alem Chem | — — |
| Alfa Nis | — — |
| Ashok Ley | 85 83 85 |
| Asia Paint | 213.75 215 210 |
| Atlas Cop | 39 38 39 |
| Auto Corp | 47.50 47.50 50 |
| Natl Index | 375.35 |
| Beju Auto | 390 390 388.75 |
| Blew Plym | 710 710 705 |
| Bom Dye | 194 198 194 |
| BK Bond | 94 94 95 |
| Burr Wel | 85 80 85 |
| Canshare | 3125 3125 3125 |
| Cca Enka | 2250 2240 2250 |
| Cca Spk | 2250 2240 2250 |
| Colgate | 197.50 183.75 182.50 |
| | |
| Crom Gr | 910 920 930 |
| DCM | 14 13 14 |
| Deep Fert | 30.25 30 30.50 |
| Dixi | 60 58 60 |
| El Motors | 51 57 60 |
| Escorts | 79.50 78.50 79.50 |
| BSE Index | 674.26 |
| Eskayef | 130 132.50 128.75 |
| Essar Spg | 26.25 26.25 26.50 |
| Food Spk | 103 102.50 103 |
| Forbes | 47.25 43.25 50 |
| Globe | 22.50 22.50 23 |
| Globe Poly | 100 100.50 99 |
| Glinfie | 37 37 37 |
| GNFC | 108.75 109 109 |
| Grahan | 46 46 45.75 |
| GE Spk | 162.50 161.25 162.50 |
| GSFC | 162. |

Indian Cinema

Powerful villains

New evil forces storm silver screen

By Firoze Rangoonwala
Arab Times correspondent

THE villain has got a face-lift. He has been winning over the public with gentle smiles, suave manners, respectable dresses, decent speech, even a touch of the comic or the eccentric. He even has a human side and good reasons for his evil deeds. With this likable image, he is posing a threat to the heroes who have been forced to change their strategy.

It is not the case of a villain turned hero. It is not even the bad man playing a golden-hearted character, as Pran once did in *Upkar*. It is a straight case of a die-hard villain but hidden under the garb of sweetness and simplicity of style. Cinegoers have begun to like such evil men. Those villains who were once booted and booed when they met their fate are now sort of idolised... sometimes more than the goody-goody heroes.

Anupam Kher has led this new brigade of soft villains, who show their claws, fangs and true colours only when the occasion demands. They are quite human till they have to be inhuman for achieving their aims. In *Chalbaaz*, Kher is given an extra layer of frontal teeth, so that he can keep giving a toothy, boyish smile in between his foul deeds. In *Bhrashtachar*, Kher plays a degenerate minister, who is outwardly all for public good. He always stops his security men (goons) from roughing up anybody. Only a few people see the iron hand in silken gloves.

Writers and directors say: what is the fun if a bad man behaves bad and shows all his teeth? He must behave like a sheep and keep the wolf in him hidden. So, they are devising newer and newer ways of shaping the villains' image. In *Parinda*, Nana Patekar looks almost innocent and driven by his unbalanced mind. His talk and gestures are quick and casual. He communicates more with his hands. He has a weakness: fire. He had burnt alive his wife and child in a fit of fury and the memory haunts him. Finally, the hero destroys him through his weakness.

Amrish Puri, tall, hefty and with a voice striking terror, bastes



Comics with a sinister motive: Raza Murad, Amjad Khan and Gulshan



New garb: Jekyll and Hyde Shakti Kapoor and Anupam Kher

change colours to behave gently or sweetly. He set a good example in his role as Mogambo in *Mr India*. Dressed in an outlandish costume and behaving like some crazy dictator, he won adulation from the audience, including children. And his "Mogambo Khush Hua" line became a catch phrase. That may pass off as a cartoonish comic-book character.

But Puri has also lent the soft edge to many hard realistic nasties. Sadashiv Amrapurkar, the short dark angry villain is learning these lessons the hard way. It went down well in art films like *Ardhi Satya* in which played a powerful but simple lord of the underworld with high connections. But in commercial films,

too, he has put on kid gloves, trying to draw some sympathy. Kadar Khan is already an expert at this. He speaks so much and in such a mind-bending way that he makes his evil acts seem justified. He is also a superb snake in the grass, since he does his dirty work within the domestic ambit. He is the perfect villain of family dramas.

In commercial films,

"Sometimes, the villains are big industrialists when they are not politicians. It has become a common sport of producers to deride both, even since the censors became extra liberal. So it is corporate cruelty, with money and stock exchange ruining the rivals. Danny, Ranjeet, Paresh Rawal and others often play safari-suited, smooth-tongued, cigar-smoking businessmen who hold immense powers to perpetrate their ghoulish deeds. At times, they hide under a cloak of religion, by appearing to be holy or God-fearing men. Once it was Kanhaiyalal, now it is Prem Chopra doing the act of "moonth pa Rama, bagal mein chhuri" a wolf in sheep's clothing or Amrit Puri playing a swami as in *Judgar*.

Gulshan Grover takes great pains over his make-up and ornaments to be the champion of evil among the young modern villains. He, thus, gets easily accepted, as in *Love Love Love*.

The last resort of the bad man has been comedy. In the last few years we had the strange admixture of funny-villains. Shakti Kapoor, Amjad Khan and Prem Chopra have almost turned it into a fine art. The buffoonery often dilutes their dastardly deeds, as in many a Southern films. Entire gangs of villains and their henchmen in recent action films have been studiously packed with visual gags.

With all this, it is time for the hero to become the villain himself. Kamal Hassan did a marvellous job of the soft don in *Nayakan* but Vinod Khanna spoilt it with his hardness in *Dayavan*. In dacoit and desert dramas most heroes are the robbing-killing type. In *Ram Lakhan* and *Parinda* both the heroes have negative qualities and in others they are a part of the underworld.

Indian myth believers say that we have indeed entered the era of evil, Kaliyug, an age when the bad people outnumber the good ones. And the force of evil, its triumph and longevity are becoming a powerful tool, admired, respected and even worshipped. Are we, then, on the verge of a new century, the century of crime?



Good, the bad and the ugly: Paresh Rawal, Amrish Puri and Gulshan Grover

Mini meet: Amrita Singh

'I am Mard Singh', and tops

After the frivolous romantic role of *Betaab*, Amrita cleverly manipulated her career in a way to get titled as a class actress. She got good prices and prestige, despite a lack of histrionics. In a recent informal talk, she gave vent to her feelings about all that is being said about her.

Q. You were lucky enough to get big films with Amitabh, Dharmendra, Vinod Khanna, Anil Kapoor etc. But you did not make any individual impact to rise to the top. Why?

A. Firstly, it was not mere luck. It was talent and personality that got me good projects. Whenever I had scope I made a strong impression and even the critics praised me. I don't know what reaching the top exactly means. I am one of the top actresses.

Q. But in films like *Judgar* and *Toofan* you had nothing to do?

A. It happens when big films are rewritten and re-edited. But I love working with Amitabh. I am his fan. What I lost out in one or two films, will be made up with the role I have in *Akeela*.

Q. But Anil Kapoor is a safer bet these days?

A. I did the hit *Sahib* with Anil when he was not even a star. Even now I have no hassles working with him, if offers come. But nobody can become another Amitabh Bachchan ever again. That is for sure.

Q. They say that your slightly bulkier physique, age and acting go against you?

A. I don't know. I am what I am. And I have been accepted and liked as such, for eight years.

Q. Why don't directors repeat you?

A. I don't believe in forming or joining "camps". I work with everyone, whether directors or actors.

Q. Don't you think the stories of a link-up with Vinod have slowed down your career?

A. An artiste also has his own personal, emotional life. We are not just puppets before the camera. But any link-ups with Vinod did not come in the way of my career, as I kept getting films continuously. If it had any adverse effects, I would cut down on such relationships.

Q. But can you continue working after marriage?

A. Hema Malini, Anita Raj, Shabana have all done it. Why can't I?



Amrita: no 'babying'

Q. Is your mother Rukhsana Sultan steering your life from the background?

A. No, she is in Delhi and she hardly interferes, unless I want her help. You never see her on my sets or "babying" me around like other heroines and their mothers. I am strong enough to handle my own affairs and deals. Yet I am not Mard Singh, in the sense which people use.

Sinusitis can cause dangerous complications

However, full doses of appropriate antibiotics, ampicillin or amoxicillin in most cases, for 10 to 14 days, is usually sufficient to prevent these serious complications. Drainage of the sinus may be aided by using a vapouriser, which helps to reduce the pressure, relieve the pain and hasten the recovery.

Question: There are a few dollars riding on this doc. While I take the position that there are still cases of leprosy in this country, my friend believes it has generally been wiped out here and that only a few cases still exist, only in poorer countries. Who takes home the money?

Answer: You do, my friend, going away. There are, in fact, over five million registered cases of leprosy in the world, and experts believe the actual figure is probably closer to 12 million. Approximately 3,000 cases are here in the United States and some 200 patients are cared for at the National Hansen's Disease Centre in Carville, La. There were even 46 new cases reported by the New York City Department of Health in 1984, the highest number in many years.

Gerhard Armauer Hansen, a Norwegian physician for whom the disease is now named, discovered the bacteria responsible for the disease in 1874, before the discoveries by Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch of bacteria that caused anthrax and tuberculosis.

Prior to Hansen's work, it was thought that leprosy was inherited and incurable. Today, Hansen's disease may be treated with a number of medications, used in combination, including dapsone, clofazamine, rifampin and ethionamide, which are capable of curing the infection.

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Behind the screen

A short take

Aamir Khan with all his outer garb of co-operation and devotion has also harassed producers. Like the man producing *Ajarna Pyar Ka* with him, Neelam and Neetu. The golden boy smelt no gold in this. Rather, he thought the current craze, Madhuri would bring him a hit. So all the dates went to Dil and *Divana Pyar Nahin*. But the *Ajarna* producer also used the current tactics of threatening and forcing. So Aamir monsoon gave the dates and came for the shoot.

Oye, Oye Oye

The nation-wide yell "Oye Oye" is also used in sexy, provocative situations. Its worst application was for the art film *Trishna* also called *Hawa Ki Pyar*. When cinegoers saw Pallavi bathing in her birthday suit, against a Buddhist background, they shouted "Oye Oye" from the commercial *Trivedi* throwing caution to the winds.

Another story

Till now there used to be provision stores and department stores. Now there are also "story stores". One such advertised regularly is *Suresh Garg Story Bhendar*, with its office in a small hotel in Bombay. The writer queries producers about the gains they have made from scripts of famous film writers, and then answers himself saying "Stage formulas and poor copies of foreign films". What Mr Garg offers, after 14 years of self-imposed exile from the industry, are twenty original stories, which he guarantees to be box-office super hits. He believes that the cinegoer always wants new stories. Two titles offered by the store are "Miss Amitabh Bachchan" and "Playboy". Any takers?

Shelf life

It seems that a wave of autobiographies is going to hit our film people soon. They saw the lavishly brought out books of foreign stars and directors and thought there is money in it. Some file V. Shantaram, Leslie Chaubey and others have already published some life stories but they are not in English and too dull. Now Mahesh Bhatt threatens to write an epic novel on his own life, after filming partially the lives of people like Rajesh Khanna, Dimple, Smita Patil, Parveen Babi, apart from his father and daughter. Others on the track for self-books are Asha Bhosle, Dilip Kumar and Asok Kumar. Do they know that only scandal sells these days? Even big publishing houses want sensational stuff. Will these people be bold enough, like Hollywood stars, to expose themselves as well as others?

For her eyes only

Parveen Babi's hand-written true story running into 1,500 pages could have made a big deal for a muck-raking publisher. But then it reads like gibberish of an unsettled mind and is also defamatory. Moreover, Babi did not even want to get it photo-copied except under personal supervision. Only some pages were sneaked out to the gossip press. Each carried her signature.

Happy birthday



Meena turns 6 on February 11



Cammal Farid turns 12 on February 9



Nishani Singh turns 14 on February 12

Congratulations



Fredelinah Cabatic turned 3 months on February 6. May her future be filled with love and blessings from mummy and daddy (Freddie and Linah). Connie, Fred, Agnes, Rey, Perla, Liza, Cely, Mar, Dan and Vincent.



Hamayun Khalid turns 8 on February 9



Mustafa Mithawala turns 1 on February 8



Ryan Nazareth turns 7 on February 12



Garrish Remedios turns 2 on February 12



Nabel T. Babu turns 7 on February 11



Aaron Mascarenhas turns 3 on February 10



Orin Pereira turned 4 on February 3



Rima Mendorica turns 11 today February 8



Lee Ann D'sa turns 4 today February 8

Thoughts

I have loved so many yet, none
I have been loved by many yet, none
Be practical they say,
they cannot love nor be loved,
only pitied and envied.
Pitied because they are fools,
envied because they are at the top.
But, is this life?
do you want to be at the top,
leaving others behind?
those who went ahead of you,
shielded you, protected you?
will you make it to the top,
with that guilt in you?
Of course, it is your life,
you are the master and the slave,
the good and the evil,
both sides of the coin.
Thru our actions, we write,
our destiny and of others as well.
Life shall go on,
practicality the achievement,
status the goal.
Tomorrow shall come, as did today,
under the stars, someone shall say,
I have loved so many yet, none
I have been loved by many yet, none.
To some, death comes sudden,
to others it is slow.
then, isn't life itself death?
isn't it the happiness of death, so slow
so peaceful,
or the sorrow of it so quick?
Now you exist, while others go
the parting shall come,
bere or there,
you shall not want it yet,
you will want it.
Life is a big show,
always comes to an end.
the end, is what you choose
and, choose you shall,
there is enough time to go ... — Rajat Kapoor.

Number fun

Count the number of objects in the circle. Write out the number on the dotted line and fill in the box. The first one is done for you.



q

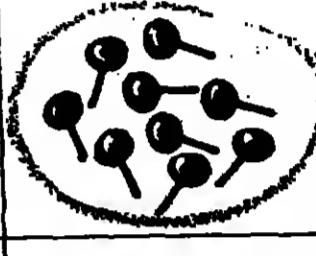
nine



s



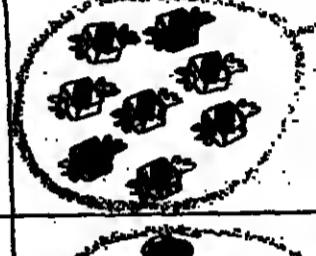
square



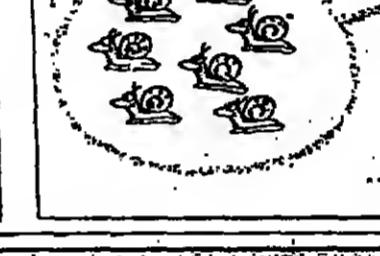
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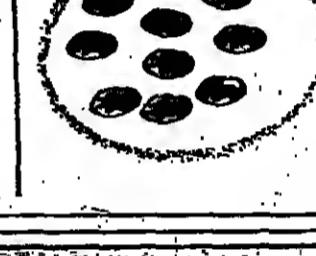
square



square



square



square

Variety

Video Corner

Unlikely charmers

By Shaun Seekins

The Fabulous Baker Boys is a low-keyed, moody examination of two minor-league lounge pianists, who after 20 years of playing together decide to modernise their act by employing a female vocalist. The Baker boys are in fact the Bridges brothers, Beau plays the elder of the two, the organiser and driving force behind the two musicians, while Jeff is a chain-smoking, moody hanger-on who just seems to have become resigned to the fact that he's trapped into playing endless lounge standards with his brother. The vocalist they choose is Suzy Diamond (Michelle Pfeiffer), a girl who has been around the escort services and decides to try her luck as a crooner. She matches Jeff in surliness and in her habit of chain smoking, altogether the trio are not very attractive personalities.

This really is the problem with the film, although all three principal performances are superb, Jeff in particular plays such a sullen character, that despite a desire to like him, you just can't. Pfeiffer's performance is the most important and she turns in an excellent one, treading a fine line between Jeff's cynicism and Beau's tiresome chuffiness. That said, the film also has many good things about it. Pfeiffer's performances as a crooner are worth watching several times over, and the musical score by Dave Grusin is a delight for blues fans.

Christopher Walken returns to the screen in an adaptation of Whitney Strieber's best selling book about his abduction by alien creatures *Communion*. In his book Strieber tells a story that what he claims is auto-biographical. A successful novelist with a beautiful New York apartment, a lovely up-state



Jack and Frank Baker flank Susie Diamond (Michelle Pfeiffer) in the Fabulous Baker Boys.

On the Record

Rock, pop, blues — a musical journey on crossroads

ROCK, POP, BLUES

ERIC CLAPTON, "Journeymen" (reprise, 926074-2)

Eric Clapton likes jamming with just about everybody these days. And no one's complaining, especially not the musicians who share the stage with slowhand... So it's really no surprise that George Harrison, Robert Cray, Phil Collins, Chaka Khan, and a score of other musicians were willing to help out on Clapton's latest release, "Journeymen."

This is not the all-blues project that some loyalists began anticipating when the Clapton mega-compilation "crossroads" was released in 1988. Instead "Journeymen" accommodates both the newcomers and those who have followed Clapton for three decades.

The first cut, "pretending," is the epitome of '80s drum-

programmed electronic sound that captured lots of radio play, it is redeemed by Clapton's guitar work and Chaka Khan's backing vocals. The same can be said about "No Alibis," another pop-oriented cut backed by Daryl Hall.

"Run So Far" is George Harrison's contribution; he wrote the song and throws in his still near east-sounding guitar licks and backing vocals. Like most Harrison music, "Run So Far" transcends the limited pop musical boundaries and is a welcome addition to this project.

For blues fans, Clapton serves up a pretty rendition of the Ray Charles classic, "Hard Times." But the big blues breakthrough for "Journeymen," is the bonding of Clapton and Cray.

The two trade off soulful guitar work on five cuts, includ-

ing "Old Love," which was written by Clapton and Cray. These guys ought to get together again. (UPI)

JAZZ
CHRIS FLORY, "For All We Know" (Concord Jazz, CCD-4403)

Guitarist Chris Flory, long-time member of saxophonist Scott Hamilton's neo-classical swing band, is out with his first recording under his own name and it is a fun-loving dandy.

His always swinging style comes from the heart, melding nicely with three longtime Hamilton buddies — pianist Mike Ledonne, bassist Phil Flanagan and drummer Chuck Riggs.

The finest tunes here are the ones in which Ledonne shifts to organ, giving Flory the bluesy kick that brings out the best in his

playing.

Standouts include "Avalon," "Tenderly," "Air mail Special," "Lullaby of The Leaves," a laid-back version of the title tune, and an original called "Ninth Avenue Shuffle." (UPI)

COUNTRY

HANK WILLIAMS JR., "Lone Wolf" (Warner Bros. Curb, 26090-4)

There's a little bit of everything this release by Hank Williams Jr., who said the lead song, "Good Friends, Good Whiskey, Good Women," is about his life and the things he's thankful for. It's a typical upbeat tune by Williams.

The mood switches abruptly with "USA Today," a song about how everything may not be perfect in America, but the refugees keep coming.

Williams teams with Jimmy C. Newman on a stirring remake of the Cajun classic, "Big Mamou." Other remakes include "Almost Persuaded" and the old jazz piece, "Ain't Nobody's Business." Both are performed with great force by Williams. "Long Wolf" is an album that simply caters to Williams fans and relies on the same approach that has been so successful for him in the past. (UPI)

CLASSICAL

CARLOS CHAVEZ, New York Stadium Symphony, Chavez: Sinfonia India, Sinfonia de Antigona, Sinfonia Romantica" (Philips, 422 305)

Aaron Copland was visiting his friend Carlos Chavez in Mexico when he got the idea for "El Salón Mexico," the work with which Copland initiated the new,

accessible style that made him the one modern composer everybody likes.

Chavez, too, wrote some fine, accessible music on a scale about the same as that of "El Salón Mexico," including the three tone poems on this CD. "Sinfonia India" is classical music you can dance to. In fact, the problem is keeping your feet still. "Sinfonia de Antigona" has cold, eerie harmony. "Sinfonia Romantica" has a ruminative middle movement reminiscent of the slow movement of Copland's third symphony.

These recordings were made in 1958 on 35mm and it is astounding how good the sound is. The CD booklet not only fails to give the real identity of the New York Stadium Symphony, on the back it misspells it. "Stadium" (UPI)

Fashion

Japanese conquer Paris catwalks

By Lee Yanowitch

PARIS, Feb. 7, (Reuter): The 1990 men's autumn and winter collections sealed it—the Japanese have added high fashion to their other Western conquests.

And they have done it Japanese-style, with a combination of discipline and creative flair that has made four of them the envy of the catwalks.

While most French couturiers stick to classical shapes or, like Jean-Paul Gaultier, rely on shock appeal, the Japanese are more innovative. It has bought them the respect of the buying public and the critics alike.

Yohji Yamamoto has ever been the subject of a documentary by West German filmmaker Wim Wenders, who celebrates the soft-spoken Tokyo-born creator as a true artist.

"The Japanese have an extraordinary approach to things. They're very disciplined," said British fashion commentator Jackie Moore.

Issey Miyake, an apprentice with Givenchy in the '60s whose fabric inventions have been earned in art museums, has earned a solid and respected position in Paris.

One of his claims to fame was a fabric he created of special paper made for him by elderly women versed in the 1,000-year-old art of Japanese paper-making.

Miyake is the greatest of the Japanese designers," said Claude Miserey, president of the International Men's and Boy's Wear trade show. "He has found the perfect balance between abundant creativity and strict discipline."

The 1990 menswear fashion season was kicked off last week by Kenzo, whose flashy profile and now-predictable bright and flowery patterns make him the star of the show.

"Kenzo's not even Japanese anymore, he's almost completely Parisian," said Miserey.

Matsuda, one of the few Japanese houses that enjoys greater fame back home than in Europe, presented one of the most original collections of the week — though not the most wearable — with designer Yukio Kobayashi's homage to 19th-

century English novelist Charles Dickens.

Pale and bespectacled round-shouldered adolescents, in sleeveless sack coats and heavy work aprons, looked as though they had spent the day working in Dickensian factories.

Shapes
While most French couturiers stick to classical shapes or, like Jean-Paul Gaultier, rely on shock appeal, the Japanese are more innovative. It has bought them the respect of the buying public and the critics alike.

Meanwhile at the Paris Natural History Museum, *Comme des Garcons'* unshaven models slouched down the catwalk in female designer Rei Kawakubo's loose-fitting suits and glossy quilted trousers that are considered the cutting edge of young trendy fashion.

Turtleneck dickeys were thinnest, floppy hats tucked in strange shapes and shapeless trousers in muted shades of coarse wool were reminiscent of Victorian England, fitted black pants with white tuxedo shirts provided an alternative evening dress.

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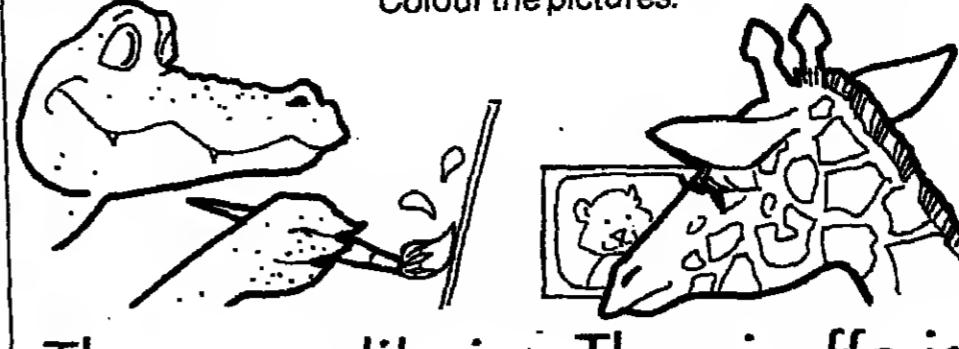
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What are they doing?

Look at the pictures below. What are these animals doing? Fill in the spaces. Colour the pictures.



The crocodile is



The giraffe is



The camel is

JUNIOR TIMES

Did you know?

- A giraffe has the same number of bones in its neck as a human.
- Chimpanzees have been taught to 'talk' using sign language.
- Cats spend two-thirds of their lives asleep.
- Snakes can have up to three hundred pairs of ribs.
- One type of snake, the python, can swallow much bigger animals, such as antelopes, whole!
- A type of lizard, called a chameleon, can change the colour of its skin to tone in with its surroundings. And it can swivel its eyes to look in two different directions at the same time.

**Just for laughs!**

Was Dracula ever married?
No, he was a bat-chelor.

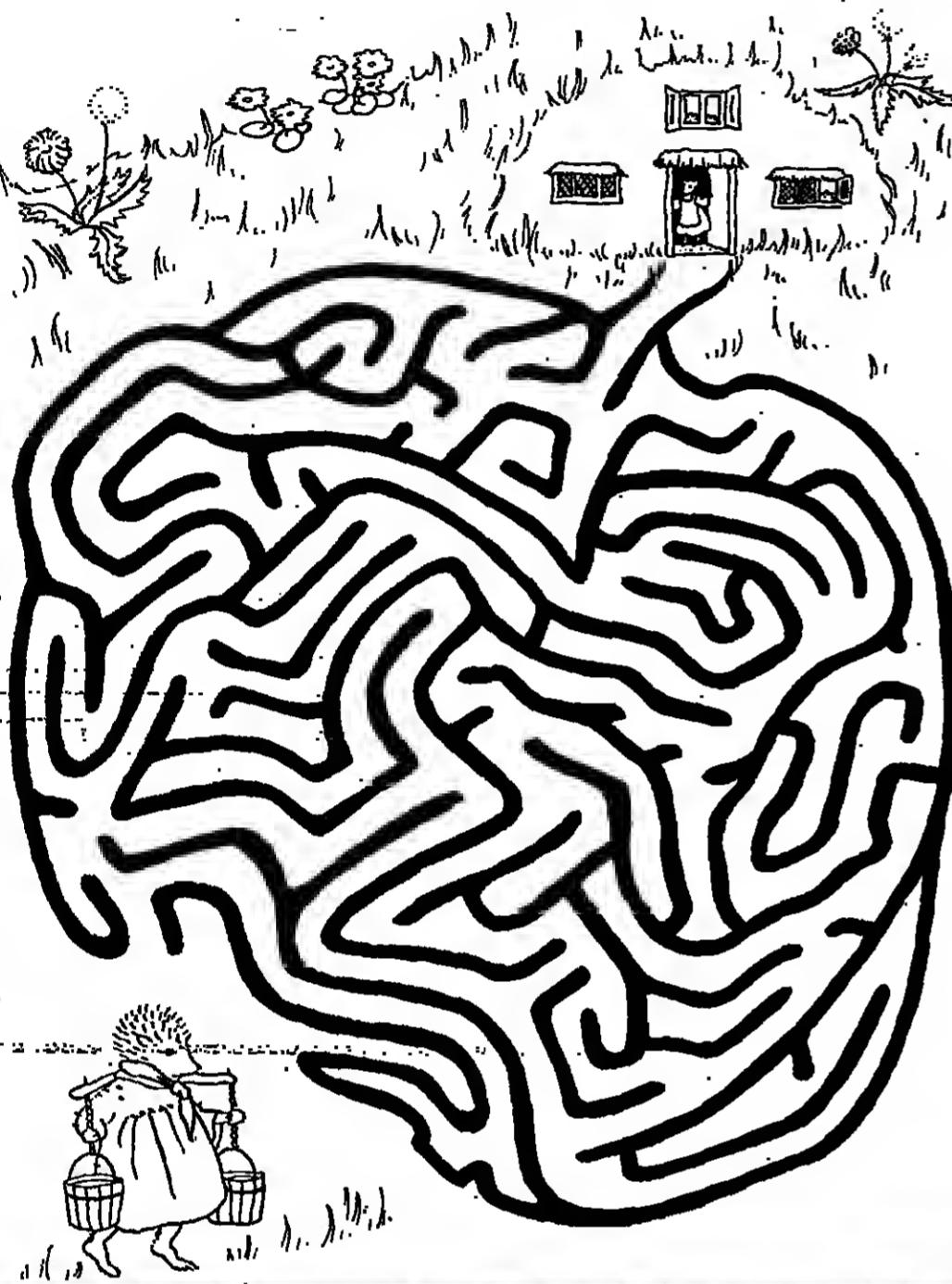
What is the ghosts' favourite pub?
The Horse and Gloom.

How does a ghost count?
One Boo Three Four Five Six Seven Hate Nine Frighten!

What did the Hungarian ghost have for lunch?
Ghoulash.

Which way?

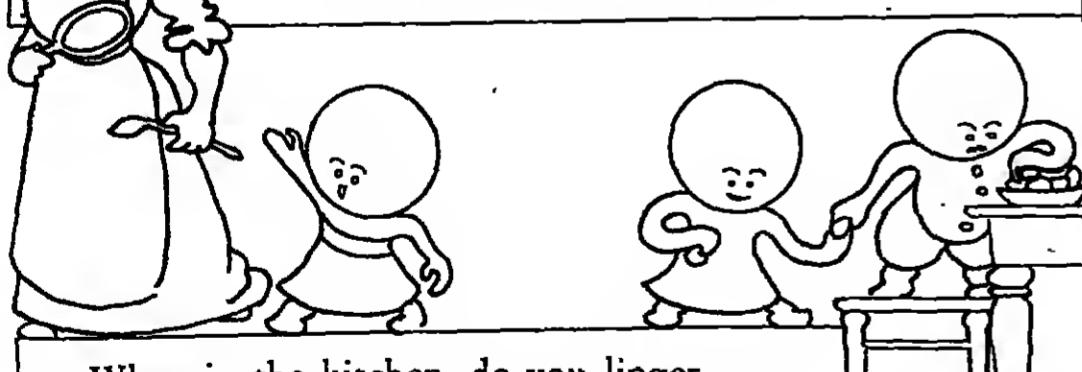
Help Hedgehog find his way to Mouse's house.



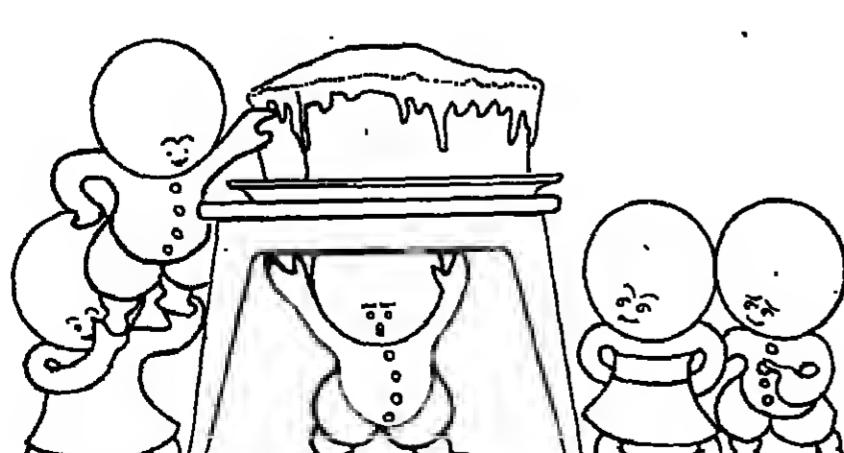
The Goops again

**PICKING and STEALING**

WHEN you are fetching bread, I trust
You never nibble at the crust.



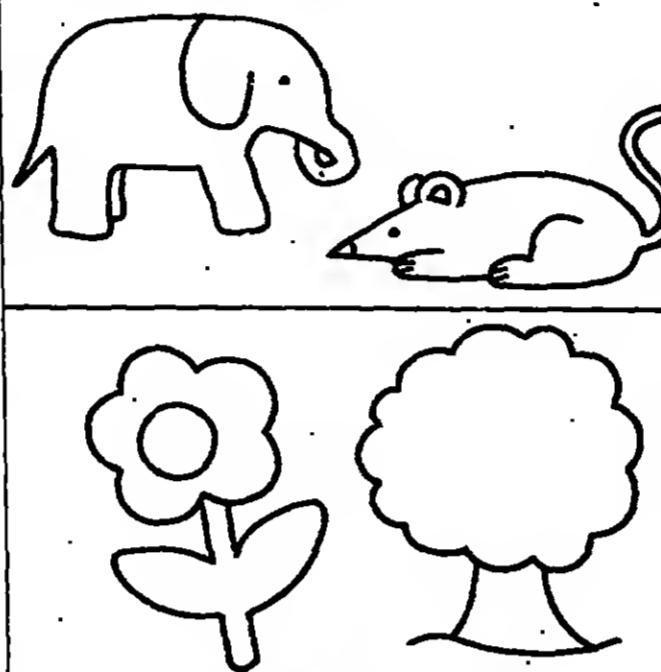
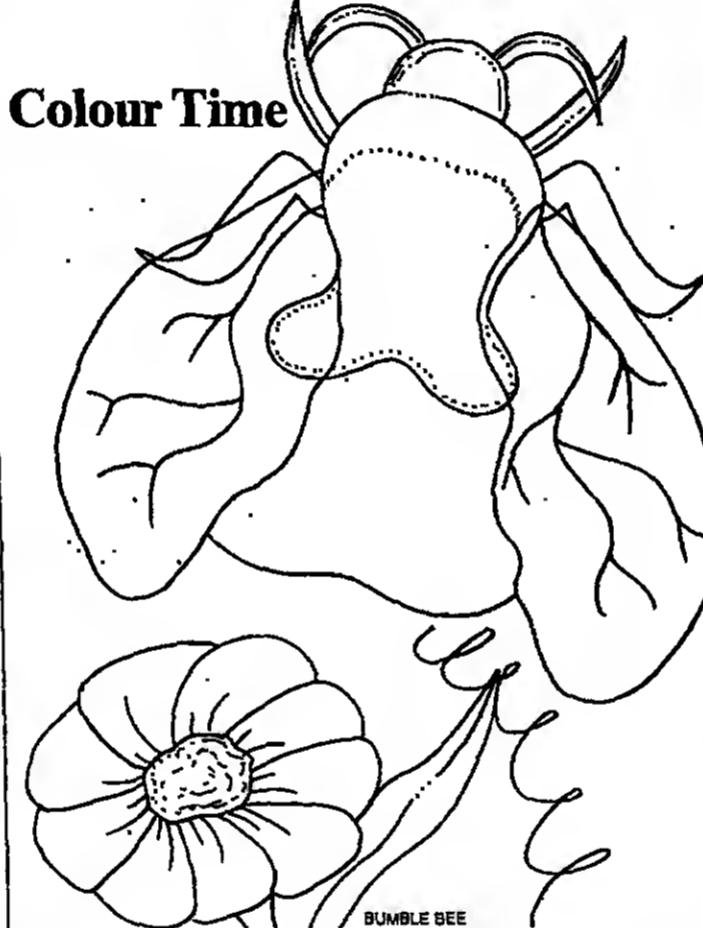
When in the kitchen, do you linger
And pinch the cookies with your finger?



Or do you peck the frosted cake?
Don't do it, please, for Mother's sake!

The smallest

Circle the item that is smallest in real life

**Colour Time****The Earth's Core**

THE EARTH'S CORE, or center, is believed by many scientists to be made of solid iron and nickel, even though they can't see it.

Hypothesis

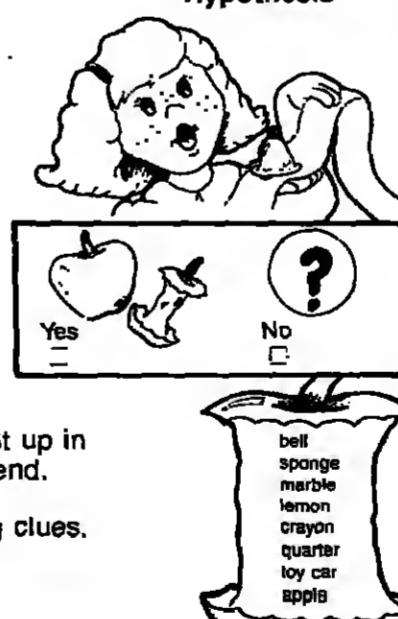
Can you tell what the core of something is without seeing it?
Check your answer.

?

Materials Needed: crepe paper, items on list, tape

Procedure:

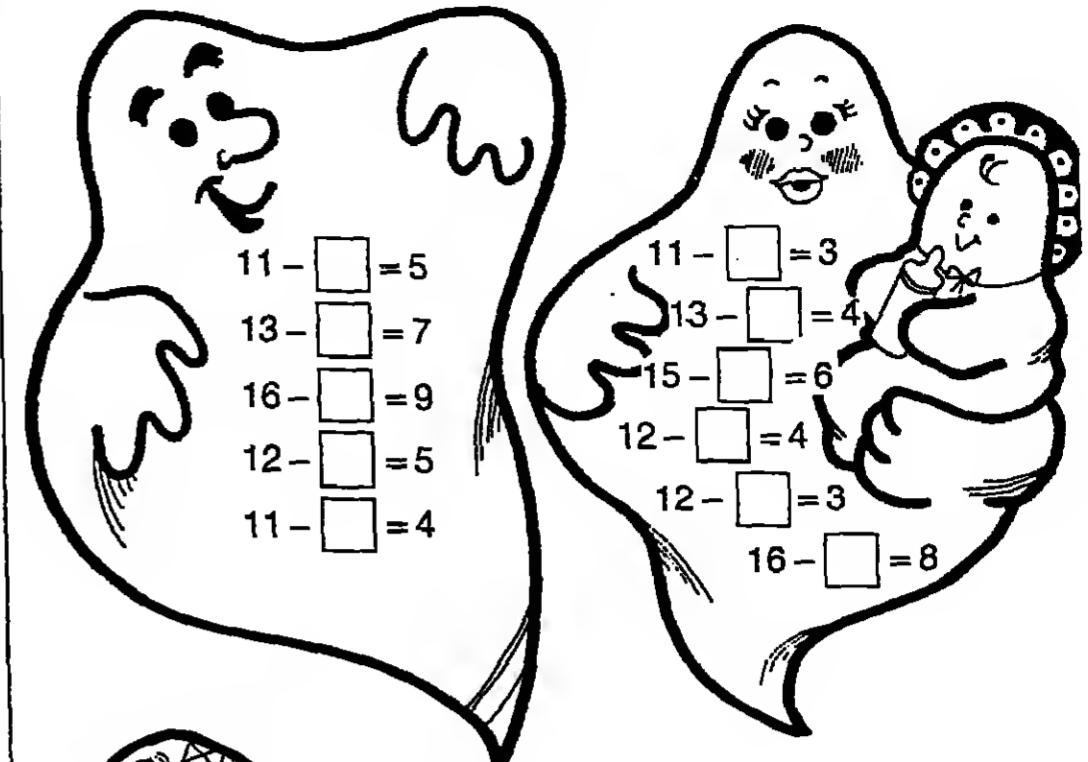
- Work in groups to make Mystery Balls.
- Secretly choose a "core" from this list. Wrap it up in crepe paper until it is a ball shape. Tape the end. Write your group number on the tape.
- All groups will try to guess the cores by using clues. Fill in this chart as you work.

**?? Mystery Ball Core Chart ??**

| Group No. | Hypothesis | Clues that helped you decide. | Right/Wrong |
|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | | | |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | | | |

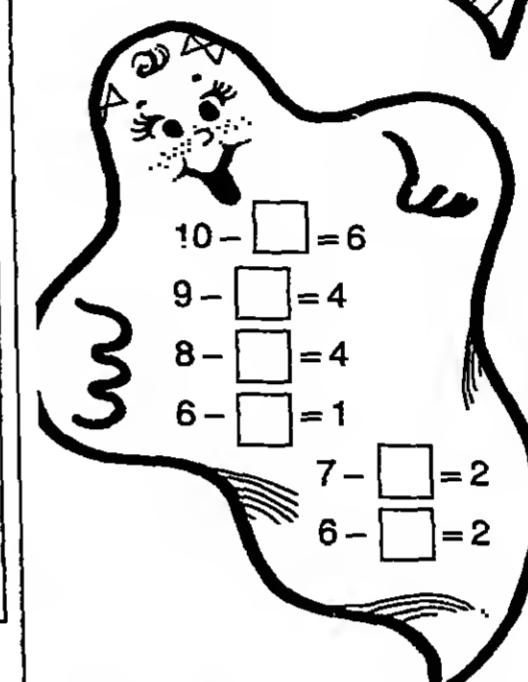
Results and Conclusions

- Could you tell what any cores were? _____ How many? _____
- Is that what you thought you could do? _____
- What did you learn? _____

Ghosts

$$\begin{array}{r} 11 - \boxed{} = 5 \\ 13 - \boxed{} = 7 \\ 16 - \boxed{} = 9 \\ 12 - \boxed{} = 5 \\ 11 - \boxed{} = 4 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 11 - \boxed{} = 3 \\ 13 - \boxed{} = 4 \\ 15 - \boxed{} = 6 \\ 12 - \boxed{} = 4 \\ 12 - \boxed{} = 3 \\ 16 - \boxed{} = 8 \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{r} 10 - \boxed{} = 6 \\ 9 - \boxed{} = 4 \\ 8 - \boxed{} = 4 \\ 6 - \boxed{} = 1 \\ 7 - \boxed{} = 2 \\ 6 - \boxed{} = 2 \end{array}$$

Find the missing addend. Color the ghost:
green if the missing number is: 4 or 5,
blue if the missing number is: 6 or 7,
yellow if the missing number is: 8 or 9.

Wordsearch**HEATED WORDS**

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------|--------------|
| BURN | FIRE | KEROSENE | RADIATOR |
| BUTANE | FUEL OIL | METHANE | SOLAR |
| CHARCOAL | FURNACE | NUCLEAR | SPACE HEATER |
| COAL | GAS | OIL | STOVE |
| COLD | GASOLINE | ORE | SUN |
| COOL | HEAT | PILOT | WARM |
| CORD | HOT | POWER | WATER |
| COST | HYDROELECTRIC | PROPANE | WIND |
| ELECTRICITY | INSULATION | RADIANT | WOOD |
| | | | WOOD STOVE |

E E S P A C E H E A T E R D G
T N A I D A R Y Q F N U S N I
O H G N P E T D X U R M L I N
L E I U O N E R I R U M I W S
I A E C W A R O P N B E O H U
P T V L E T I E R A G T L O L
S C O E R U F L O C A H E T A
O H T A L B I E P E S A U R T
L A S R O R E C A S O N F A I
A R D C O A L T N T L E W D O
R C O R D D I R E O I L A I N
E O O C O O L I S V N R R A T
T A W O D L O C T E E I M T S
A L W V I K E R O S E N E O O
W Y T I C I R T C E L E M R C

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday coming soon?
Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times?
Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!

Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them.
The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Hobbies: _____
Telephone: _____ (confidential)

Send to:

ARAB TIMES

Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait

To avoid belated greetings please send
within a week before the special date

Your
favourite
most
recent
picture
(4x6)

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



TODAY'S CROSSWORD

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

A GRAND EFFORT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

| | |
|-------|----------------|
| NORTH | ♦ A Q 5 4 3 2 |
| | ♥ 6 5 2 |
| | ♦ Q J 10 |
| | ♦ A |
| WEST | ♦ J 8 |
| | ♦ K J 10 7 4 |
| | ♦ Q 9 |
| | ♦ 7 5 |
| | ♦ 6 |
| | ♦ J 9 7 2 |
| EAST | ♦ K 10 9 7 |
| | ♦ 7 6 |
| | ♦ K Q 10 6 4 3 |

SOUTH

| |
|-----------------|
| ♦ 6 |
| ♦ A 8 3 |
| ♦ A K 9 8 4 3 2 |
| ♦ 8 5 |

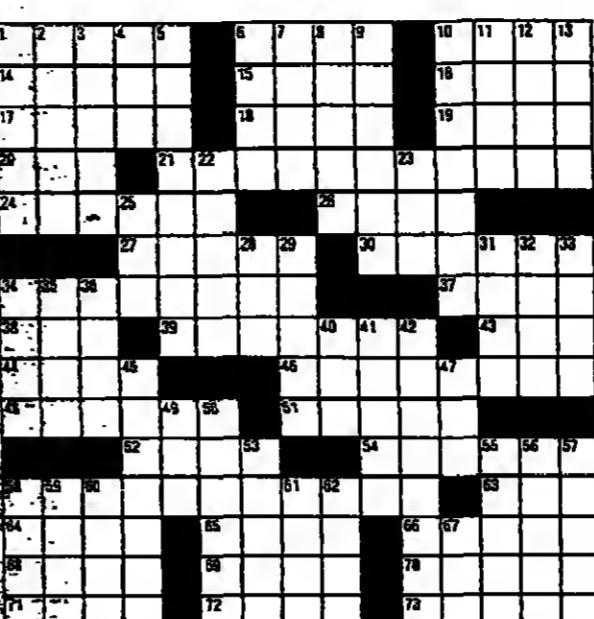
The bidding:

| | | | |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| South | West | North | East |
| 1 ♦ | Pass | 1 ♠ | 2 ♡ |
| 2 ♠ | Pass | 4 ♦ | Pass |
| 4 ♣ | Pass | 5 ♦ | Pass |
| 5 ♦ | Pass | 6 ♦ | Pass |
| 7 ♦ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Opening lead: Two of ♦

The value of a hand waxes and wanes as the bidding progresses. South's 11 high-card points grew to gigantic proportions and the final action was well judged.

Once North jump-raised diamonds, South could afford to cue-bid the ace of hearts en route to five diamonds. There was nothing to



ACROSS

- 1 Locust bean
6 Hunk of cheese
10 Door part
14 In Los Angeles,
The Forum
15 Whoopsie
16 Range between
Europe and
Asia
17 Casts
18 Box elder
genus
19 Brume
20 Midwest mkt.
21 Game fish
22 Pacific state
26 Shadow
27 Tangle
30 Playground
equipment
34 Fiddled
37 Retail store
sign
38 Hoosier
humorist
George
39 City
transportation
43 Colorful carp
44 Page
46 Gallant
48 Beverage
server
51 Distort
52 Budget item
54 Rate
56 Hunting dog
58 Eve gamboled
here
59 Not pro
60 1981 Warren
Beatty film
62 Day to save for
68 Freight
69 Novelist
Kingsey
70 Edict
71 "Ponzi" author
72 Equal
73 Certain
- 35 Impression
36 Approach
40 Crow's
comment
41 Pertaining to
birds
42 Large
Instrument
45 Larson cartoon,
with "The"
47 USMC grads
48 Dues
50 Snare
53 Composition
55 Wrangler-Saint
— National
Park
56 Sometimes it's
common
57 After may
or yea
58 Indonesian
island
59 Often-quoted
suth?
60 Prenuptial
party
61 Dog in
Garfield's life
62 Neighbor to Fin
67 Initials on a rap
sheet

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

| | | |
|------------|-------------|--------|
| FOSTER | PRIM | NBC |
| CREDIBLE | HDR | ERA |
| COLD | BLOODEO | VAN |
| SAINT | MAZE | |
| ERR | COOL | HEADED |
| TAUGHT | DASEAN | |
| ATSEA | SPDRT | |
| SHOR | TTEMPERED | |
| LOESS | RELENT | |
| DAMONE | ASSASI | |
| LONGWINDED | AKA | |
| EMIR | ATRIA | |
| AIM | WARMHEARTED | |
| DINA | AMTRAK | |
| SOL | DEBS | MASERS |



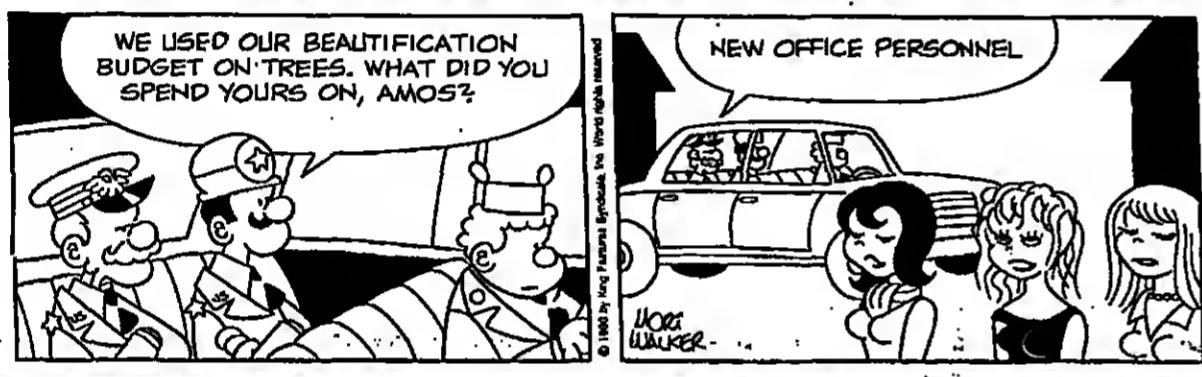
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



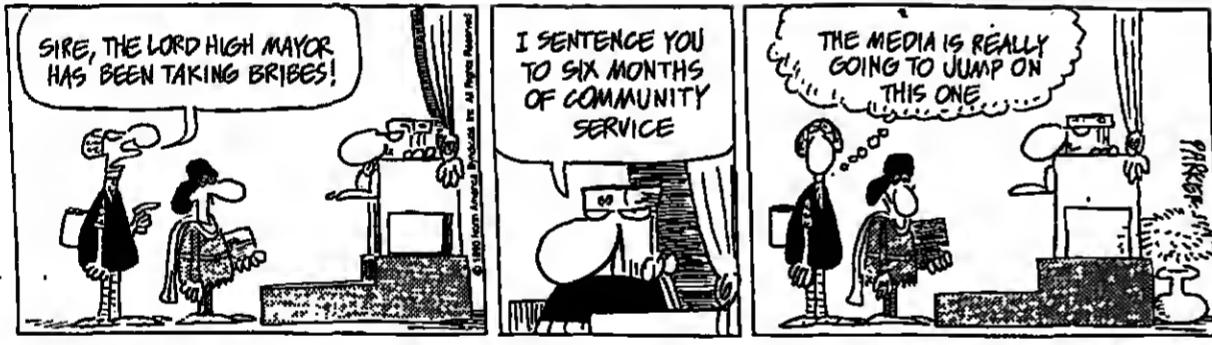
GRETCHEN



BEETLE BAILEY



THE WIZARD OF ID



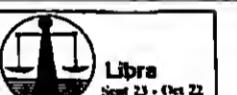
ANDY CAPP



B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Fortan & J. Shull

Aries
March 21 - April 19Cancer
June 21 - July 22Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22Capricorn
Dec 23 - Jan 19

You should try to avoid getting into an argument. You are far too liable to allow yourself to be discredited: desist. Do not think that luck will get you out of trouble. Be true to your word.

Try to avoid being jealous or envious. Instead think of all the things you have that so many do not. Do not let a small disappointment deject you unduly. Be true to your word.

Pay more attention: better to avoid making mistakes rather than having to correct them. You are more liable to stomach upset if you do not eat anything you are not used to, or, not anything stale. Make sure you get enough rest and exercise.

Something you learnt and mastered recently will now begin to prove its worth. Do not spend in the hope of a windfall that may never come. You will have something to be pleased about. Be sensible.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You should keep calm and should not let a setback put you off your stride. Your lucky numbers are 4 and 36. By all means read a good book, but not past your bedtime. Watch out for mistakes. Be careful.

Virgo
Aug 22 - Sept 22

You should not try to do too many things all at once. However, no harm in changing the subject now and then. You should try to exercise a little more self-discipline and to combat lethargy. Be sensible.

Sagittarius
Nov 22 - Dec 21

You will feel rather unloved but are you sure you are not asking for too much and not giving enough in return? There will be a lot to do so make sure you waste no time. And take just a little more exercise, nothing strenuous. Be less complacent.

Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

Work hard but do not allow work to destroy your personal life. Make sure you do not allow expenditure to outstrip income and do not fall behind with tax payments. Look on the bright side and have a good laugh at yourself. Be fair.

Aquarius
Jan 20 - March 19

If you think you have nothing more to learn you are in serious danger of stagnation and worse. You should be swift but not to the extent where you become careless. Do nothing that would make your health suffer. Be compassionate.

Pisces
Feb 19 - March 20

You will find it rather hard to concentrate but you must make the effort. You should avoid making a nuisance of yourself nor allow others to prey on you. Check a calculator — you may well have made a mistake. Be realistic.

Capricorn
Dec 23 - Jan 19

You are all too likely to dwell on what has been and gone. Instead you should live in the present and look forward to the future. Stand by a friend who is having a difficult time. Be generous.

Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22

Do all you can to avoid getting bored and do not bore others either. You will need all the concentration you can muster, so avoid distractions at all costs. You will have something to be pleased about. Be considerate.

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Aquarius
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BAJA American Sport, 16 ft, golden and metallic brown, in good condition. KD1,200. Tel. Anwar, 5810140, 2-6 pm.

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NISSAN Liberty '84, fully automatic with sunroof and AC, white, insured up to Oct '90 in good condition. Offers over KD475. Tel. 3902063.

(AT5-51388-3)

GM Van 1981 with refrigeration unit for sale. Tel. Mr Faisal/Mr Rasheed, 2406486, 2464389, 4-6 pm.

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TOYOTA Crown Super Saloon 1981, fully automatic, in good condition. KD800. Tel. 2402988 ext. 2740, 7:30am-4:30pm.

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SOFA set KD50, TV 27" KD45, 2x bed, 2x ACs KD90, cooker, oil heater etc. Tel. Arafat, 5740215.

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DINING table with 4 chairs, 2 single seater, 2 side tables, curtains, IBM compatible PC-XT, 20mb hard disc, EGA colour monitor, computer table, and software. Tel. 5621524, 8am-2pm, 2428541, 2pm-7:30pm.

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SOFA set KD50, TV 27" KD45, 2x bed, 2x ACs KD90, cooker, oil heater etc. Tel. Arafat, 5740215.

(AT5-51425-3)

SONY video 5 system in excellent condition. KD70, 100 western video films KD70, and Canon zoom lens FD70-210mm not used, brand new in a cartoon, KD65. Tel. Mohammad, 9038075, 12 noon-10:30pm.

(AT5-51368-3)

HITACHI refrigerator/freezer, large capacity frost free side by side, KD150 or best offer. Tel. 3719163, 5-10 pm.

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Customers are hereby informed that our shop is open for business and our special offer

Negotiations off**Korean talks end in failure**

PANMUNJOM, Korea, Feb 7. (AP): Talks between South Korea and North Korea on forming a single team for this year's Asian Games in Beijing ended in failure today, with each side accusing the other of insincerity.

"We consider negotiations broken off," declared Chang Chung-Shil, who has led the South Korean delegation in the sports talks over the last 10 months at the border truce village of Panmunjom.

The two sides set no date for further talks.

Hamper

Chang accused the North of using the talks for political purposes.

"North Korea's real intention was to hamper our separate participation in the Games to be held in its brother country," he said. China is a major ally of the communist North.

His North Korean counterpart, Kim Hyung Jin, denounced South Korea, saying, "it became clear your side had no intention to form a single team."

The sports talks, which began last April, made speedy progress at first, with the two sides agreeing on the single team's name and flag, a joint committee and the selection and training of athletes.

Demanded

But the negotiations bogged down early this year when South Korea demanded the conclusion of an auxiliary accord binding both sides to implement all agreements.

South Korean officials had been worried North Korea would raise difficult technical issues at the last moment, leaving the South without time to make a separate entry by the June 22 entry deadline for the Beijing Games.

Rain prevents play again

SYDNEY, Feb 7. (Reuters): Overnight storms and morning drizzle have caused the fifth day of the delayed third Test between Australia and Pakistan today to be abandoned.

The match umpires abandoned play just before the scheduled lunch break. Australia now seems set to win the series 1-0.

The match has only seen seven hours of play on Monday and yesterday with Pakistan dismissed in their first innings for 199.

Almost a third of the Oval at the Sydney Cricket Ground was under water at the scheduled start of play. The ground curator suffered on a 'super-sopper,' — mechanical roller used to soak up excess water — in an attempt to sponge up some of the puddles.

But rain continued to fall this morning.

The Australian Cricket Board had extended the matcbe to tomorrow to make it a four-day match. Play tomorrow cannot be called off until an hour before stumps.

BLT hold Fun Run Marathon**Barlow finishes first**

Peter Barlow with his trophy

THE British Liaison Team (BLT), comprising members of the British Armed Forces seconded to the Kuwait Ministry of Defence, held its annual Fun Run Marathon earlier this week. Ninety runners took part in a series of races from the Kuwait International Hotel to Fahad. Peter Barlow won the marathon covering the 42 kilometres in just two hours 52 minutes.

The half marathon started at the Messilah Beach Hotel, and Peter Hurt was the first of 30 runners to complete the 24-kilometre course, in time of one hour 39 minutes.

Glen Fitzpatrick won the quarter marathon, a distance of 12 kilometres in 43 minutes. The winning team of Richard Doncom, Dennis Reid, John McCawley and Duncan Snell from the Kuwait Hash Harriers covered

the marathon course of 44.8 kilometres in a total time of two hours 56 minutes.

One of the outstanding performances of the day came from Mark Edwards. This 10-year-old boy covered the 12-kilometre course in a magnificent time of 54 minutes, considering the very cold and windy conditions. This was a truly commendable achievement. The top lady runner was Carolyn Gledhill finishing the half marathon in two hours 4 minutes. The event was organised by Peter Barlow, who thanks all the sponsors who supported this worthwhile event, which was in aid of the National Childrens Home Charity.

The British Ambassador to Kuwait, Peter Hinehelle, presented trophies and medals to the competitors at the closing ceremony.



Kuwait Hash Harriers: winning team

Bucks thrash Celtics

HARTFORD, Connecticut, Feb 7. (AP): Boston castoffs Brad Lohaus and Fred Roberts combined for 14 fourth-quarter points, leading the Milwaukee Bucks to a 119-106 victory over the Celtics.

The Celtics led 88-87 with 9:02 left last night before Milwaukee went on a 21-7 run keyed by Lohaus, who made two 3-pointers. The Celtics went ice cold in the fourth quarter, making eight of 26 shots as Milwaukee pulled away.

Roberts added eight fourth-quarter points and finished with 20. Jack Sikma also scored 20 and Lohaus finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Cavaliers 96.

Joe Dumars scored 22 points and Isiah Thomas had 20 points and 11 assists as Detroit beat Cleveland 105-96 for its eighth straight victory.

John Williams came off the bench to lead the Cavaliers with 21 points, and Mark Price had 18, including four 3-pointers.

Knicks 117, Magic 110. Patrick Ewing scored 35 points and New York held Orlando without a field goal for more than four minutes in the fourth quarter on the way to a 117 to 110 victory.

Ewing had 24 points in the second half and also had 13 rebounds and seven blocked shots as the Knicks won their fourth consecutive game and took sole possession of first place in the Atlantic Division, one-half game ahead of the Philadelphia 76ers.

Bullets 118, Heat 100.

Jeff Malone scored 24 of his 34 points in the second half and sparked a rally that lifted Washington over Miami, 118-100.

The Bullets led only 69-66 with 4:19 left in the third period after five points in a 26-second span by Rony Seikaly, who led the heat with 22 points. Washington also had a 23-6 run that saw Malone score seven points, putting the Bullets ahead 92-72 with

10:15 left in the game.

Rockets 108, Timberwolves 101.

Akeem Olajuwon and Otis Thorpe scored 23 points each as Houston withstood a fourth-quarter rally and defeated Minnesota.

Buck Johnson threw an errant pass with 19 seconds remaining in the game, giving the Timberwolves an opportunity to tie the score, but Scott Roth committed an offensive foul and Mitchell Wiggins hit two free throws to seal the outcome.

Minnesota, which has lost 12 straight road games, was led by Donald Royal with 21 and Sam Mitchell with 19.

Results

| | Milwaukee | 119 | Boston | 106 |
|-------------|-----------|------------|--------|-----|
| Washington | 118 | Orlando | 100 | |
| New York | 117 | Orlando | 110 | |
| Detroit | 105 | Cleveland | 96 | |
| Houston | 105 | Minnesota | 101 | |
| San Antonio | 105 | Atlanta | 94 | |
| Indiana | 105 | Denver | 130 | |
| Dallas | 100 | Sacramento | 90 | |
| L.A. Lakers | 121 | Portland | 110 | |

Results

Carolyn Gledhill: 1st lady

Aussie pair aim for big pay day

DUBAI: Australian pair Peter O'Malley and Brett Ogle are hoping for another big pay day when they make a return golfing excursion to the Gulf later this month.

They join the line-up for the £250,000 Emirates Airline Desert Classic in Dubai from February 22 to 25, and both look forward with good reason to the second event on this year's PGA European tour.

O'Malley went into last year's inaugural Desert Classic at the Emirates Golf Club on a sponsors' invite, and came away with a cheque for £27,760.

The 23-year-old from New South Wales forced Mark James into a sudden-death play-off with some of the best golf of his career, and it took a birdie on the first extra hole to give the British Ryder Cup star victory.

However, given a big boost in confidence by his performance, O'Malley went on to comfortably earn his European tournament player's card, finishing 56th on last year's Order of Merit with winnings of £24,914.

Ogle also has good reason to look back with satisfaction on a tournament which is sponsored this year by Emirates, the international airline of the UAE.

The 25-year-old from Sydney produced a three-under par 69 in the final round to clinch fourth place and pocket a cheque for £12,500.

The 23-year-old from Tasmania Open champion in 1988, Ogle later added a joint second place in the Cannes Open in the South of France and also tied for third spot in the Irish Open.

Kuruppu to join Lankan squad

COLOMBO, Feb 7. (Reuters): Sri Lanka's cricket selectors picked Brendon Kuruppu today as a replacement for the injury-hit Sri Lankan side currently touring Australia.

Kuruppu, a wicketkeeper and opening batsman with a penchant for one-day cricket, is due to leave for Australia on Friday.

He will be available for Sri Lanka's one-day international against Pakistan in Brisbane on Saturday, a cricket board official said.

Sri Lanka, Pakistan and hosts Australia reschedule one-day triangular on Saturday.

Fillon holds off Rahman and Stevie for victory

RESULTS

1. Stevie Hutchinson 14.50

2. Abdul Rahman Balmam 18.75

3. Bruce Keeping 25.75 (Mistral Competition)

4. Mike Quinn 28.75 (Fanatic Cat)

5. Stuart Large 35.00 (Mistral Competition)

6. Hadrien Fillon 40.75 (Fanatic Cat)

For details of Messilah Beach Windsurfing Club contact Bob Green Tel 4396000 ext. 3943

Standings after 6 races:

1. Stevie Hutchinson 14.50

2. Abdul Rahman Balmam 18.75

3. Bruce Keeping 25.75 (Mistral Competition)

4. Mike Quinn 28.75 (Fanatic Cat)

5. Stuart Large 35.00 (Mistral Competition)

6. Hadrien Fillon 40.75 (Fanatic Cat)

7. Sunit Arora 2-0 (15-12, 15-14)

8. Jane Drake 2-0 (15-12, 15-14)

9. Bill Potts 2-0 (15-12, 15-14)

10. Graham Dow 2-0 (15-12, 15-14)

11. Apollonia Fitness Centre manager Julie Deni 2-0 (15-12, 15-14)

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40. Graham Dow 2-0 (15-12, 15-14)

41. Apollonia Fitness Centre manager Julie Deni 2-0 (15-12, 15-14)

Robson to undergo operation

LONDON, Feb 7. (Reuter): Manchester United and England captain Bryan Robson was due to have a hernia operation in a London hospital today and could be out of soccer for two months, his team manager said.

"It's a big disappointment, but at least we know now where we stand," said United manager Alex Ferguson. "I expect him to be out for six to eight weeks."

A specialist who saw Robson yesterday recommended surgery on the groin injury that has kept the midfielder out of football for six weeks, missing United's last nine matches.

Robson, who will probably miss England's World Cup warm-up against Brazil on March 28 but hopes to be fit for the finals in Italy in the summer, limped out of a practice match without hitting a ball yesterday.

Bazdarevic to appeal again

BELGRADE, Feb 7. (Center): Key Yugoslav midfielder Miodrag Bazdarevic, out of the World Cup soccer finals for spitting at a referee, is to make a personal appeal against his suspension.

"I can't imagine not playing in the World Cup final. It's something I have dreamed about for the whole of my life," Bazdarevic said today.

The Yugoslav federation appealed to Fifa in December but a one-year suspension, imposed in October after a match against Norway, was upheld.

"I have heard there is another possibility — to appeal directly and on my own to Fifa's executive committee and I will do that," Bazdarevic said. "I am not guilty. I did not spit at the referee."

Partizan Belgrade, banned from staging next month's home quarter-final European Cup Winners' Cup tie, are to play the game against Dinamo Bucharest, in Stuttgart.

"We think we'll get good crowd support there from the many Yugoslav workers in the area," official Stojan Ristevski said.

The home ban follows crowd trouble last year.

Scotland name unchanged side

EDINBURGH, Feb 7. (Reuter): Scotland today named an unchanged side for their Five Nations Rugby Union Championship match against France at Murrayfield on February 17.

The Scots recovered from a 7-0 half-time deficit to beat Ireland 13-10 in Dublin in their opening championship game last Saturday, their first away victory in four years.

Centre Sean Lineen is carrying a slight shoulder injury from the match at Lansdowne Road but should be fit in time to face France who are expected to name their side on Sunday.

France, the defending champions who crashed to a 26-7 defeat against England in Paris on Saturday, have not won at Murrayfield since 1978.

Team — Gavin Hastings; Tony Stanger, Scott Hastings, Sean Lineen, Iwan Tukalo; Craig Chalmers, Gary Armstrong; Derek White, Finlay Calder, Chris Gray, Damian Cronin, John Jeffrey, David Sole (captain), Kenny Milne, Paul Burwell.

LONDON, Feb 7. (Reuter): England, with an experienced and little-changed squad, have a chance to make up for past failings when they meet old rivals Ireland and the Netherlands in the opening round of the World Cup finals in Sardinia in June.

Manager Bobby Robson's team, quarterfinalists in Mexico in 1986, but defeated by three crushing defeats at the European championship finals two years later, have good reason for hoping they can overcome the Irish and the Dutch in Italy.

For it was against them that England's high hopes of success in the European finals were extinguished, the Irish winning their opening clash 1-0 and the Dutch 3-1 just a few days later.

"It is an interesting group and a challenging one," said Robson when the draw for the finals put England with Ireland, Egypt and the Netherlands. "It gives the players a chance to prove something to everyone."

Their notorious supporters permitting, England — if they can take their good qualifying form with them — have every chance of progressing to the last eight again after arriving in Sardinia, where they will play all of their Group F games.

Unfortunately, as in West Germany two years ago, there is a possibility that whatever England produce on the pitch, it



Chris Waddle
will be overshadowed by their fans' activities off it.

England's World Cup is thus almost certain to be shrouded in high security and near-military style police activity.

It was much the same four years ago in Monterrey where England made bard work of

surviving the first round of the Mexican World Cup finals. Only the discovery of a natural Goalscorer in Gary Lineker, almost by accident against Poland, ensured a place in the second round.

Paraguay were then beaten comfortably, but it was a different story against Argentina with the eventual champions winning 2-1 in a rousing quarter-final made memorable by Diego Maradona's individual brilliance and his infamous "Hand of God" opening goal.

In those final, England were without their inspirational captain Bryan Robson and he, like the Netherlands' captain Ruud Gullit, remains a doubtful starter in Italy this time round.

His English club Manchester United have struggled badly all season and Robson, below his consistent best despite scoring twice against Yugoslavia in December, has missed nine successive club matches with a deep-seated groin strain.

If he is absent, or below par, it would be a huge blow to England who are likely to be without another established midfielder in Neil Webb. He is recovering from a ruptured Achilles tendon.

Robson, as a captain and regular goalscorer, has been the mainspring of the team for five years and his two goals against Yugoslavia were England's only ones to their last four matches.

England, who won the world Cup to home soil in 1966 when they played all their matches at Wembley, have not reached any final since. The usual cause of their demise has been fatigue coupled with a lack of flair, fluency, imagination and goals.

It led to their failure in Spain in 1982 and was the chief cause of embarrassment Mexico until Lineker burst into prolific life to salvage their pride.

Robson, who followed Ron Greenwood as England manager after the 1982 finals, has shown enormous patience and loyalty to his established players and, as a result, such veterans as goalkeeper Peter Shilton and defenders Gary Stevens and Terry Butcher have been retained despite media criticism.

Shilton, at 40, has won 113 caps and is famous as one of the English heroes throughout the world.

Butcher, 31, with 67 caps, is better-known for his blood-splattered courage than his skill. Stevens, after failing in Mexico, has almost inexplicably kept his place despite the claims of younger men such as Paul Parker and Michael Thomas.

Parker, a fleet-footed defender, and Thomas, a robust midfielder or full-back, have proven credentials for selection yet have to wait their chance of an extended run in the team.

Since West Germany, only Des Walker, a central defender with the pace to cover for Butcher's lack of it, has graduated while neither of the two highly-gifted wingers Chris Waddle or John Barnes has matured into a match-winning international player.

Robson's reluctance to make widespread changes has also resulted in ball-playing Tottenham midfielder Paul Gascoigne frequently being left out of the squad in the same way the now-discredited Glenn Hoddle was four years ago.

It could be that a newcomer — like the versatile forward David Platt — may burst through before the finals, but it is more likely Robson's suspicion of change will lead to a familiar efficient but unimaginative England team.

England, unbeaten in 11 matches since the European finals, will prepare for Italy with warm-up games in London against Brazil, Czechoslovakia, Denmark and Uruguay before flying to Sardinia on May 25 together with wives and girlfriends.

The female companions will be sent home at the start of June, however, when serious work begins with a final warm-up match, in Tunis, against Tunisia.



Gascoigne: frequently left out

Zico plays last official match

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb 7. (Reuter): Zico, one of Brazil's greatest all-time soccer stars, played his official farewell game at the Maracana Stadium in front of nearly 100,000 fans yesterday.

Some of the top soccer players from the last decade, including Germans Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Paul Breitner, Dutchman Rudi Krol, Italian Claudio Gentile and Argentine Mario Kempes, as well as Zico's former and current Flamengo team mates took part in the game.

Although it is customary in testimonial games for the players of honour to keep the gate receipts, Zico will donate the nearly \$100,000 toward the building of Brazil's first hospital for haemophiliacs.

Four different teams played yesterday. The first half was contested between members of the Flamengo team that won the World Cup in 1981 and a Masters team made up of players from the 1978 and 1982 World Cups. In the second half, the current Flamengo side played a World Cup Masters team of currently active players.

He played 89 matches for Brazil and his 66 goals made him the second-highest scorer in the

with outstanding play by Rummenigge and Masters' goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel.

Flamengo took the lead in the 53rd minute on a goal by defender Fernando, but goals by Claudio Adao and Tarantini, both from passes by Bebeto, put the Masters ahead.

An 80th minute goal by Fernando made the final score 2-2.

Although Zico did not score, he provided two of the matches best moments by dribbling through the opponents' defence. His closest chance came on a left-foot shot in the second half which was saved by Taffarel.

Zico's entrance at the start of the match was greeted by a display of laser lights and showers of ticker tape from fans.

On leaving the pitch at the end of the match, Zico took a lap of honour which was followed by a fireworks display.

Zico, 36, made his professional debut in 1971 and with the exception of a stint from 1983-85 with Italian club Udinese, played his entire career with Rio de Janeiro club Flamengo.

He played 89 matches for

Brazil and his 66 goals made him the second-highest scorer in the

nation's history.

Zico played in the 1978, 1982 and 1986 World Cups although he was only fully fit during the 1982 competition.

In all, Zico, whose full name is Arthur Antunes Coimbra, has played 1,046 professional games, scoring 729 goals.

He won the Rio State Cham-

pioship eight times, the Brazilian National Championship four times, the Libertadores Cup once and the World Club Cup once.

Zico plans to make some coaching videos and will do television commentating during the World Cup finals in Italy later this year but has no intention of becoming a professional coach.

"For me it would be the last thing I would want to do," he said. "I would like to dedicate time to my family and the life of a football manager requires more sacrifice than that of a player."

Lineup:

First half — Flamengo: Raul (Cantarella), Nei Dias, Leandro, Marinho, Junior, Andrade, Tita, Adilio, Nunes, Zico, Loco, Master, Taffarel, Gentile, Krol, Breitner, Edinho, Valdano, Kempes, Causio, Roberto, Falcao, Rummenigge.

Second half — Flamengo: Ze Carlos, Ailton, Leandro (Junior), Leonardo, Junior (Udermar), Fernando, Renato, Edu, Bujica, Zico, Zinho.

Masters: Taffarel, Gentile, Tarantini, Hansi Muller, Pezey, Camacho, Edinho, Kempes, Bebeto, Madjer, Claudio Adao.

Zico gets an official farewell.

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'UAE could surprise opponents'

ABU DHABI, Feb 7. (Reuter): The United Arab Emirates, who make their debut in the World Cup finals in June, drew warm praise from Danish national coach Sepp Piontek after their 1-1 draw with Denmark in a soccer friendly on Monday.

He said his advice to Franz Beckenbauer, his compatriot and coach of West Germany — who play the UAE in the opening round in Italy on June 14 — was simple: "Beware of this team."

Piontek said he expected the UAE to collect four points from their opening group matches.

"Your defence will enable you to draw with West Germany and Yugoslavia and beat Colombia," he said, referring to the other countries drawn with the UAE in group D.

The UAE defeated Egypt's Olympic team 2-1 last week but the draw against Denmark, who have a high reputation despite failing to qualify for Italy, surprised even their own supporters.

"We had expected a 5-0 or 6-0 defeat," a UAE sports official said.

Eight more matches have been arranged with European teams after February's Gulf Cup tournament involving the UAE, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Oman.

■ UAE will play two matches against the Swedish soccer side instead of the Soviet Union, it was announced yesterday.

The Russians were scheduled to play against the UAE team on Feb 12 and Feb 15.

Sweden will play the warmup games against the UAE on Feb 14 and Feb 17.

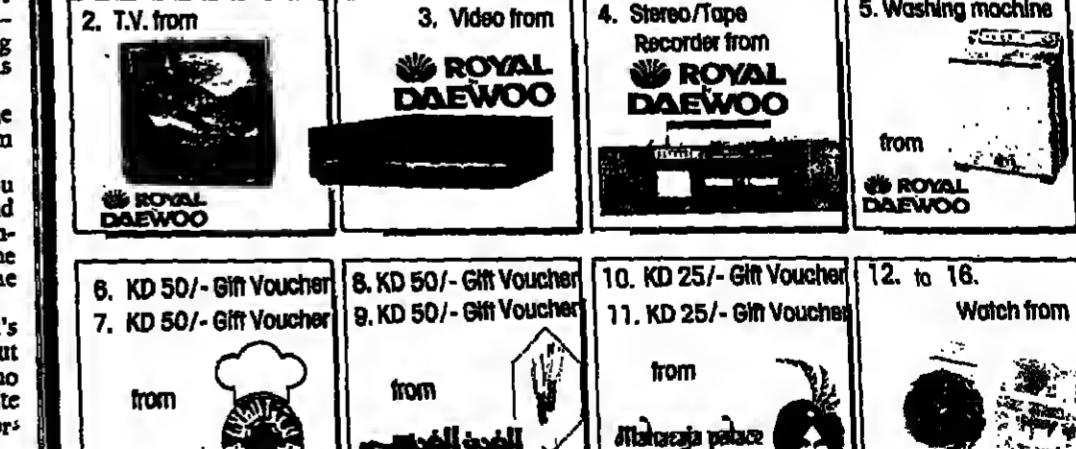
The UAE Football Association gave no reason for the substitution of Sweden for the Soviet Union team.

The Swedish team had been scheduled to play Feb 14 and 17 in Saudi Arabia.

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CONTEST QUESTIONS:

- When was the first Gulf Cup Tournament held? Country: _____ Year: _____
- Name the player who scored the most goals in a single tournament?
- Who will win the Gulf Cup Tournament held in Kuwait 1990?

Competition coupon

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|---------------------|
| Name (full): _____ |
| Civil Number: _____ |
| Age: _____ |
| Address: _____ |



Falah (right) with Khalifa.



Tareq Al Alayan in action.

Falah and Al Wazzan reign supreme

IT was the same old story in Friday's 4WD rally. Marlboro campaigners Eid Falah and Tareq Al Wazzan outpaced all other competitors, managing to put a full seven minutes between themselves and the rest of the field.

The event was won by Eid Falah and Khaled Khalifa driving a Marlboro Mitsubishi Pajero. Even though there is still one round to go, this win clinches the newly-established Kuwait 4WD championship for Falah, who is already reigning national champion in the conventional category.

Tareq Al Alayan, sponsored by Mild Seven Lights, was third.

"Our only competition came from Tareq," explained Marlboro co-driver Khaled Khalifa. "We were experiencing electrical problems, which caused us to lose time and speed."

"I am very happy to have won this event, and of course to have taken the title of Kuwait 4WD champion," said Falah. "I am lucky enough to have a good car, a good co-driver and strong support from my team. Every-

thing was 100 per cent and I'm delighted with our performance."

One other performance of note came from Hossam Al Sayafe, who was lying third through the early stages of the day, setting times close to those of the more experienced leaders. However Sayafe, who is better known for his exploits in the Merit powerboat, rolled on stage five, causing extensive damage to his modified Range Rover, but none to himself or his navigator.

Results:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1. Eid Falah/Khaled Khalifa | Pajero | 1:09:50 |
| 2. Tareq Al Wazzan/Edgar Speak | Range Rover | 1:13:23 |
| 3. Tareq and Khalid Al Alayan | Rocky | 1:20:23 |
| 4. Mamad Shalib/Sirish Fernandes | Froza | 1:26:05 |
| 5. Anwar Al Jarwa/Salam Fawaz | Suzuki | 1:28:21 |
| 6. Ahmed Al Zafiri/Chizi Al Zafiri | Range Rover | 1:41:43</ |

Jahangir begins title defence with victory

TORONTO, Feb 7. (Reuter): Pakistan's Jahangir Khan began the defence of his Toronto Invitational squash tournament title yesterday with a convincing straight games victory over Ross Norman of New Zealand.

Jahangir, winner of this eight-man tournament for the last seven years, defeated the man who put an end to his five-year winning streak in 1986 with a 17-15 15-2 15-4 win in

Group A play.

In the day's other Group A match, Briton Mark McLean needed four games to beat countryman Del Harris 15-12 14-17 15-10 15-6.

Australian Chris Dittmar, ranked third in the world, looked fresh after a six-week layoff and beat Adrian Davies of Britain 15-9 15-11 15-10 in Group B play.

The opening game between the seven-

time defending champion and Norman was a thriller with the lead changing hands constantly and neither player gaining more than a two point advantage.

From 14-14 Jahangir came up with a pair of fine shots and Norman committed an error to end the 19-minute game 17-15.

Jahangir quickly took control of the match in the next game.

Dittmar seemed surprised by Davies who

appeared to have the upper hand at several points, only to lose the rally with an error.

Dittmar was hitting superb length and his winners came as the ball died in the back corners rather than from his usual drop shots.

Though Dittmar has one victory behind him, he still must face world champion Jansher Khan and Canadian Sabir Butt in Group B round-robin play.

Connors, Evert back together

NEW YORK, Feb 7. (AP): Sixteen years ago, Jimmy Connors and Chris Evert were young and in love and the toast of tennis. Now Evert is retired, Connors is the oldest man on the tour and they're happily married to other people. But they'll soon be reunited — as television commentators.

Connors and Evert have joined the US network NBC as tennis analysts and will work together at the French Open and Wimbledon, where they danced together at the Championships Ball in 1974.

Although they later split up, their careers remained intertwined. Connors went on to win more singles titles than any man (109) and Evert more singles titles than any player (157) in the history of professional tennis.

Evert, 35, retired from the women's tour after last year's US Open, but Connors continues to play a limited schedule at age 37. They'll debut as a broadcasting team at the French Open in June.

"We've known each other a long time, and I'm looking forward to working with him," Evert said.

Connors is confident they'll make a good team.

"If she doesn't feel comfortable with me and I don't feel comfortable with her, then something's really wrong," he said.

The broadcasting deal will give



Evert: reunited with Connors

Connors and Evert time to catch up.

"I've never been shy about voicing my opinions," Connors said. "I'm going to call it as I see it."

And off camera? Evert is busy with exhibitions, commercials, charity work and her duties as president of the women's International Tennis Association.

"I haven't had a day off since October," she said. Connors plans to continue playing for at least another year. He is currently 19th in the world, his lowest position since the men started their computer ranking in 1973.

"If I can go out and win two tournaments the way I did last year, that will be great. And if I don't, that will be OK," Connors said. "I'm going to keep playing as long as I enjoy it."

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